FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-221
Monday
16 November 1992

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-92-221 CONTENTS *16 November 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Discussion Program Views Future U.S. Relations *[Tokyo TV]* 1
U.S. AWACS Negotiations 'Becoming Uncertain' *[Tokyo TV]* 2
FTC 'Reluctant' To Approve Beer Joint Venture *[KYODO]* 2
Firm Denies U.S. Charge Regarding IC Packages *[KYODO]* 3
Nuclear Energy Talks With Russia Announced *[KYODO]* 3
Russian Official Urges Nuclear Arms Monitoring *[KYODO]* 3
Tokyo Wants 'Active Role' in Mideast Process *[KYODO]* 4
Foreign Ministry Reconsiders Plans for Plutonium *[Tokyo TV]* 4
U.S. Declines To Confirm Tracking of Plutonium *[KYODO]* 4
Nuclear Fuel Firm Postpones Plant Construction *[KYODO]* 5
Kato: Japan Supports Hong Kong 'Democratization' *[KYODO]* 5
Hata Denies Intention of Launching New Party *[KYODO]* 5
'News Focus' Reviews Sagawa Kyubin Scandal *[KYODO]* 6
Part Two of 'News Focus' *[KYODO]* 7
Chronology of Scandal Listed *[KYODO]* 8
Kanemaru 'Ready' To Donate to Public Bodies *[KYODO]* 9
Kanemaru's Hospitalization Called Apparent Tactic *[KYODO]* 9
Kanemaru Postpones Hospitalization *[KYODO]* 10
Kanemaru Enters Hospital 16 Nov *[KYODO]* 11
'News Focus' on Hospitalization *[KYODO]* 11
LDP Backs Summoning of Takeshita To Testify *[KYODO]* 12
Miyazawa To Push for Economic Recovery in Budget *[KYODO]* 13
'Top' Executives Predict Slow Economic Recovery *[KYODO]* 13
Poll Views Relocating Government Outside Tokyo *[KYODO]* 13
'Life in Japan' White Paper Emphasizes Family *[KYODO]* 14

North Korea

ROK Charge of Chemical Weapons Use Condemned *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Paper Denounces U.S. Torricelli Amendment *[KCNA]* 16
Radio 'Talk' Denounces Team Spirit Decision *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
Japan's 'Lack of Independence' Broke Up Talks *[KCNA]* 18
IAEA Inspection Team Departs 14 November *[KCNA]* 19
No Tae-u Phone Remarks With Clinton Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19

South Korea

'Excerpts' of Clinton-No Tae-u Phone Dialogue *[THE KOREA TIMES 14 Nov]* 19
Dialogue Stresses Security Commitment *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Nov]* 20
North Denounces Dialogue *[Seoul Radio]* 20
Editorial Views Clinton's Policy Toward Seoul *[TONG-A ILBO 14 Nov]* 20
Democratic Party Sends Group To Meet Clinton Team *[YONHAP]* 21
Yeltsin To Seek Increased Economic Ties *[YONHAP]* 21
DPRK Diplomat Threatens To Cancel N-S Talks *[Seoul Radio]* 22
Trade Minister Meets Australian Counterpart *[YONHAP]* 22
Editorial on Debate Over Opening Rice Market *[THE KOREA HERALD 14 Nov]* 22

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Military Plot To Assassinate Khin Nyunt Alleged *[AFP]* 24
Torture of Detainees at Prison Alleged *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 16 Nov]* 24
SLORC Releases 47 Detainees 14 Nov *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
51 Detainees Released 15 Nov *[Rangoon Radio]* 25

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Tourists Sue U.S. Authorities for Mistreatment *[BERNAMA]* 25
Mahathir Leaves for African Tour 16 Nov *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 26
Significance of Chilean President's Visit Viewed *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 26
Deputy Premier Meets SRV Politburo Member *[BERNAMA]* 27

Cambodia

KR Demand To Deploy More Officers Rejected *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
SNC Unofficial Beijing Meeting Summarized *[Radio VGNUFC]* 28
SRV Sends 'Invading Troops' To Aid Phnom Penh *[Radio VGNUFC]* 29
Vietnamese Troops Reportedly Hidden in Battambang *[Radio VGNUFC]* 29
Outbreak of New War Said Possible in Dry Season *[SPK]* 29
SRV Reportedly Plans To Use Toxic Chemicals *[Radio VGNUFC]* 30
AFP Report on Hun Sen's Thai Talks Cited *[SPK]* 30
KR,Thai Businessmen Blamed for Deforestation *[Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST 15 Nov]* 31

Indonesia

Government Extends Humanitarian Aid to Bosnia *[Jakarta Radio]* 33
Canberra, Jakarta Begin First Ministerial Forum *[Melbourne International]* 33
Australian Minister Says Ties 'Pretty Good' *[Jakarta Radio]* 34
Sutrisno Meets With Thai Supreme Commander *[Jakarta Radio]* 34
Japanese Delegates Urge Improved Infrastructures *[ANTARA]* 34

Laos

Preparations for National Assembly Polls Completed *[Vientiane Radio]* 35
Khamphoui Keoboualapha Returns From Australia *[Vientiane Radio]* 35
Two New Districts Set Up in Xieng Khouang *[KPL]* 35
Military Courts Set Up in Six Northern Provinces *[Vientiane Radio]* 36

Philippines

U.S. Ambassador Criticized for 'Meddling' *[MALAYA 14 Nov]* 36
U.S. Troops, Foreigners To Be Tested for AIDS *[Manila Radio]* 36
Ramos Dismisses Chances of Invasions by Neighbors *[Manila Radio]* 36
Military Rebels Establish 'Peace Panel' *[Manila Radio]* 37
Police on 'Full Alert' After Communist Threats *[MANILA BULLETIN 16 Nov]* 37
Ramos Swears In National Police Chief *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 11 Nov]* 37

Thailand

UN Peacekeepers From Cambodia Not Allowed *[THE NATION 14 Nov]* 38
Ministry Official Reiterates Stance on UN Forces *[THE NATION 15 Nov]* 38
Government Seen 'Opting Out' of Cambodian Peace *[THE NATION 14 Nov]* 39
No Change in U.S. Regional Defense Policy Seen *[Bangkok TV]* 39
Ministry Preparing for U.S. Trade Pressure *[NAEO NA 15 Nov]* 40
Ministry To Prepare for GSP Talks With U.S. *[BANGKOK POST 14 Nov]* 40

Trade Along Cambodian Border 'Slowing Down' *[BANGKOK POST 14 Nov]* 41
Foreign Minister 'Forced To Postpone' Laos Trip *[THE NATION 15 Nov]* 41

Vietnam

U.S. Senators Visiting on POW/MIA Mission *[VNA]* 41
Hanoi Calls For UN Measures Against Khmer Rouge *[Hanoi International]* 42
Philippine Foreign Minister Concludes Visit *[VNA]* 42
Value of Exports, Smuggling Reported Nationwide *[Hanoi Radio]* 42

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Claim of Uranium Sale to Indonesia Dismissed *[AFP]* 43
Official: Business Prospects in SRV Exaggerated *[Melbourne International]* 43

Budweiser made its debut in Japan in 1981. Suntory, Japan's top whiskey maker, began to manufacture and market Budweiser in Japan in 1984 under a license agreement with Anheuser-Busch.

The company sources said Budweiser sales for the first 10 months of this year totaled 5.69 million cases, each containing 20 regular-size bottles, up 14 percent over the preceding year. Budweiser enjoys a 60 percent share of the imported beer market in Japan, the sources said.

Firm Denies U.S. Charge Regarding IC Packages

OW1611105192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Kyocera Corp. denied on Monday that the company has so far exported to the United States any ceramic products for military purposes. The denial came after two U.S. ceramic companies had lodged a complaint with the U.S. Department of Commerce stating that Kyocera's market-dominating ceramics for integrated circuit (IC) packages are threatening American national security.

The two companies, Coors Electronic Package Corp. and Ceramic Process System Corp., filed the complaint with the department under a provision in the U.S. trade law.

The IC package, strong against heat and vibration, is used for microprocessors in computers and the two U.S. companies say that Japanese products account for 90 percent of ceramic boards used for military-use semiconductors.

The trade law allows the U.S. President to enforce import limits and other measures against any products that are proved to be a threat to national security.

A spokesman for NGK Insulators Ltd., a top Japanese insulator maker, said U.S. semiconductor producers which supply products for the commercial market would face difficulty in procuring ceramic products if imports from Japan were limited.

An official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said user-oriented U.S. semiconductor makers would support Japanese makers if the U.S. Government took any measures against Japanese firms. However, the MITI official expressed concern that the issue might become another source of U.S.-Japan trade friction, noting that the case reflects the trade policies to be adopted by President-elect Bill Clinton, who has been calling for "economic" national security.

The world IC package market is almost 100 percent dominated by Japanese makers. Kyocera and NGK Spark Plug Co. of Japan hold some 90 percent of the U.S. market, industry sources said.

Nuclear Energy Talks With Russia Announced

OW1611072892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0710 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan and Russia will hold talks in Tokyo on November 24 to 27 to discuss issues relating to the production and harnessing of nuclear energy, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The Japanese delegation, consisting of officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Science and Technology Agency will address the promotion of further Japanese assistance to Russia for enhancement of safety measures, officials said. Russia will be represented by officials of its Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Atomic Energy and State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety.

At the last such meeting in Moscow in October 1991, Japan offered to invite 1,000 Russian nuclear plant operators to Japan over a 10-year period for training in areas of Japanese expertise, such as safety. Officials said some 30 to 40 such trainees are being received during the current fiscal year which began in April.

Russian Official Urges Nuclear Arms Monitoring

OW1611132592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A veteran Russian cosmonaut called Monday for enhancing space-based monitoring of compliance by major military powers with strategic nuclear arms cutback treaties.

Vladimir Shatalov, head of Russia's Cosmonaut Training Center, made the proposal before a group of some 300 scientists and cosmonauts from 39 countries at the Asia-Pacific International Space Year Conference. Shatalov is a former pilot of the Soviet Union's Soyuz spacecraft, who oversaw the world's first successful spacecraft docking.

He said such space-based monitoring collaboration would also help uncover possible efforts by smaller nations to develop nuclear weapons.

Shatalov, mentor of Japan's first astronaut-cum-journalist Toyohiro Akiyama of the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) who trained in his institute outside Moscow, said, "The destiny of mankind depends on their behavior." Humanity should recognize the possible fate of the planet, saddled as it is with numerous nuclear missiles, he said.

He underscored the importance of space-based reconnaissance efforts in forcing countries with nuclear missiles to start talks on cutting back.

"Negotiations on Strategic Arms Reduction Talks were initiated only after negotiators (from the U.S. and Russia) notified other sides they have already detected the whereabouts of the other's nuclear arms sites," he

said. "Should such a multilateral monitoring mechanism be introduced, we would be able to observe military drills in border areas," Shatalov said.

Later the same day, Jerome Apt, one of six American crew members of the Endeavour space shuttle who participated in a flight mission in September with Japanese astronaut Mamoru Mohri, told a press conference he has similar sentiments to Shatalov. Apt, a mission specialist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), also said international cooperation and solidarity can be accomplished to promote space development despite intense business competition among aeronautics manufacturers. He said he expects a profiteering race could have the favorable effect of encouraging development of high-quality aeronautics products.

Mohri, the first Japanese scientist to be a member of a space shuttle laboratory research mission, said Japan should supply astronauts at least once every two years as "Japanese researchers have many good ideas and need to be aboard the space shuttle in order to verify them."

Tokyo Wants 'Active Role' in Mideast Process

OW1411074392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—Japan plans to hold a steering committee meeting for the multilateral Middle East peace conference in Tokyo next spring in an effort to play a more active role in the Mideast peace process, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday [14 November]. An official offer to hold the meeting will be made at the coming steering committee meeting scheduled for London in December, the sources said.

Japan expects the Tokyo meeting to help give impetus to its envisaged active role in solving the Middle East issues. Tokyo already has extended invitations for visits by foreign ministers from three Middle East nations. Those who will visit Japan soon are Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who will be in Tokyo on November 24-27, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who visits in mid-December and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa, visiting next January.

Prior to those visits, the government will summon its ambassadors to some 20 Middle East countries in Tokyo to hold consultations November 19-20 to assess the situation in the region, the officials said.

The multinational conference is aimed at supporting bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians. The talks are entering a period of uncertainty following the election of Bill Clinton and the coming transfer of power in Washington, the officials said.

The multilateral talks consist of five panels, including environment, economic development and water resources panels. Japan chairs the environmental panel and serves as deputy for the economic development and water resources panels.

Japan proposed holding a marine pollution prevention training seminar in Japan at the environmental panel meeting in October in The Hague, the Netherlands. Japan also proposed measures for making travel in the Middle East easier and promoting tourism there at the economic development panel meeting in Paris last month.

Foreign Ministry Reconsiders Plans for Plutonium

OW1511121692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has begun to reconsider Japan's method of transporting plutonium from France, as well as its plans to use reprocessed plutonium, because it is becoming increasingly concerned over unexpected and mounting international criticism over the shipping of plutonium aboard the Akatsuki Maru.

The ship, which departed from the French port of Cherbourg on 7 November and is now headed for Japan, is carrying a cargo of one ton of plutonium to be used as fuel in nuclear reactors. Because the government plans to transport 30 tons of plutonium from overseas for use as fuel in domestic reactors, this seaborne transportation process must be repeated 29 more times.

Not only have coastal nations along the Akatsuki Maru's expected route voiced opposition to the ship's passage, but there have also been voices expressing concern that the plutonium shipments could provide Japan with an opportunity to develop nuclear weapons in the future. Moreover, if the new Clinton administration hammers out policies unfavorable to Japan's plutonium transport, there are concerns that the government may be forced to change its existing policy. Therefore, the government has begun to reconsider the project.

According to current plans, the government intends to procure 85 tons of plutonium by the year 2015, but recent recalculations by the Foreign Ministry indicate that such demand is unlikely, and, in turn, the ministry thinks it may be necessary to cut back on orders. Moreover, there have been recommendations to ship the plutonium by air instead of by sea because of the strong reaction against seaborne transport from those coastal countries along the expected route. The Foreign Ministry plans to open concrete discussions on this matter with the Science and Technology Agency when the Akatsuki Maru completes its current mission.

U.S. Declines To Confirm Tracking of Plutonium

OW1611043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—The United States has declined to confirm whether it is deploying nuclear submarines to monitor the progress of a one-ton plutonium shipment bound for Japan, the top government spokesman said Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Japan is satisfied with the U.S. Department of Defense's refusal

Japan

Discussion Program Views Future U.S. Relations

OW1511105892

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 8 November carries an hour-long panel discussion entitled "Clinton's Overwhelming Victory—What Is Happening With U.S.-Japanese Relations?" The program is moderated by NHK commentator Yasuhiro Koshina, and those participating in the panel discussion include Nomura Research Institute Chairman Yoshio Suzuki, Kobe Steel Vice President Shinji Fukukawa, international consultant Yukio Okamoto, Tokyo University Professor Takeshi Igarashi, and Takai University Professor Ichiro Sunada.

Koshina opens the program by reviewing Governor Bill Clinton's overwhelming electoral college victory in the U.S. presidential election. This portion of the program features video footage on Clinton's victory speech in Little Rock. Koshina then asks the participants for their opinions on what U.S. voters expect from Clinton. The participants agree that the outcome of the election reflects the American people's eagerness to overcome a sluggish economy. International consultant Okamoto, a former chief of the Foreign Ministry's First Division of the North American Affairs Bureau, says American voters' underlying concern about their economic future under the Bush administration, as well as their desire for a change to the next generation of leadership, prompted Clinton's victory. Okamoto adds that the American people have entrusted the future of the United States to Clinton.

Asked whether Clinton's economic measures designed to revive the U.S. economy are workable, Kobe Steel Vice President Fukukawa says Clinton's basic policy is moving "in the right direction," but he adds that the feasibility of Clinton's plans remains "unclear." After other participants review major points of Clinton's economic policy, Okamoto is asked whether the Clinton administration will be able to improve the U.S. economy while reducing expenditures. Okamato answers that it will be difficult for Clinton to resolve "in a single stroke" all the problems he will inherit from the Bush administration. Nevertheless, Okamoto adds that Clinton's economic measures "may work better than we expect" if they are balanced and well coordinated, and "if the efforts of talented people who are pragmatic and familiar with administrative work are combined."

Nomura Research Institute Chairman Suzuki says that four years down the road, the U.S. economy may recover if the Clinton administration is willing to tolerate a sluggish economy over the next two years while gradually implementing its economic policies. Okamoto says he agrees with Suzuki's opinion that the U.S. economy will improve "in the long run," stressing that the restructuring efforts made by U.S. industries in the 1980's are beginning to take effect. He adds: "I have heard from American economists that the civilian industries are experiencing greater results than are the military industries." He says that if these restructuring efforts are maintained over the next few years, they will ultimately impact other areas and greatly benefit the U.S. economy as a whole.

The discussion then turns to future U.S.-Japanese relations. Tokyo University Professor Igarashi notes that although the Democratic Party holds a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, there are no Democratic leaders who will be capable of adequately guiding Clinton because he himself does not have political experience within the federal government and because the party has been cut off from the White House for the past 12 years. He adds: "Therefore, whether he wants to or not, Clinton will have to rely on the Congress, and, eventually, he will have no choice but to act in concert with Congress. In turn, I think the Clinton administration, in all aspects, will apply more pressure on Japan than did the Republican Party which has held power during the past 12 years."

Kobe Steel Vice President Fukukawa expresses a similar view, while Okamoto claims that it is "unavoidable" that no matter who had been elected the next American President, the United States would ultimately apply more pressure on Japan. Okamoto says: "I think the U.S. Government will pressure Japan into boosting its economy by saying that the recently approved supplementary budget is not sufficient for stimulating the economy." He adds: "The U.S. Government also will bring up the issue of the Super 301 provision."

Regarding the U.S. Government's anticipated firm policy toward Japan, Nomura Research Institute Chairman Suzuki expresses concerns about the possible establishment of an economic security council, moves toward higher taxes on foreign enterprises operating in the United States, and the implementation of the Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act. Suzuki explains why Clinton has proposed the idea of establishing an economic security council by saying: "Although Japan should not make careless remarks until it confirms the membership and purpose of the economic security council, I think that Japan should keep close watch on the U.S. move."

In terms of the possibility of the United States hiking taxes against foreign-capital companies, Suzuki says: "Japanese automakers are concerned about the possibility that the United States will apply some kind of pressure." He adds: "If the United States rashly strengthens the taxation system, foreign nations will take retaliatory measures. Therefore, I do not think it is easy for the United States to increase taxation." On the possible invocation of the Super 301 provision, Suzuki says: "We cannot form a hasty conclusion because we have to see how future moves between Congress and the Clinton administration develop. Nevertheless, I am really concerned about this." In connection with the deadlocked Uruguay Round of GATT's multilateral

trade talks, Kobe Steel Vice President Fukukawa stresses that Japan must play an active role in making the Uruguay Round a success.

Koshina then brings up the issue of the Clinton administration's foreign policy, and he asks the participants for their views on whether U.S. foreign policy will change under the Clinton administration. Noting that Clinton will center his foreign policy on the restoration of the domestic economy, which means that the United States "must remain an economic giant," Okamoto says Clinton will devise a policy based on sharing democratic values and, in turn, will take a firmer position toward China. Okamoto says that although the Clinton administration seems as though it will pay more attention to Asian affairs, the United States' basic foreign security policy will remain unchanged.

Asked whether Japan should play a role in the readjustment of relations between the United States and China, Okamoto says: "I think that Japan should inform the United States of its position as soon as possible before the U.S. Government finalizes its policy toward China. In the effort to gradually democratize, modernize, and open China, the United States should take the initiative." He goes on to stress: "In the end, I think that the United States, which is much less familiar than Japan is with China's domestic situation, will be unable to do many things it is capable of doing should it adopt a position of imposing conditions on China." Suzuki expresses a similar opinion.

The discussion turns to relations between the United States and Russia. Kobe Steel Vice President Fukukawa says that, as with relations between the United States and the PRC, Japan has to hold talks with the United States on policy decisions affecting Russia as soon as possible.

Asked about how Japan should deal with the new U.S. Administration, Tokai Professor Sunada says that "Japan should take a flexible approach in dealing with the United States' requests as much as possible, especially in the areas of trade and market liberalization." Sunada adds, however, that Tokyo cannot take the same approach when dealing with U.S. demands on Tokyo to bear more responsibility for defense, because this would conflict with the maintenance of Japanese pacifist policies.

Okamoto says that Japan should review its policies, adding: "The first thing that Japan has to do is abandon its policy of reactive diplomacy in which it responds to U.S. requests after being pressured by the United States." He says this diplomatic approach has prompted U.S. distrust in Japanese politics. Okamoto adds that Japan should work out its own, independent policy and explain this policy to the international community. Nomura Research Institute Chairman Suzuki says that it is necessary to hold a U.S.-Japanese summit as soon as possible.

U.S. AWACS Negotiations 'Becoming Uncertain'

OW1411131392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Negotiations with the U.S. over the price of Airborne Warning and Command System, or AWACS, aircraft, which the Defense Agency [DA] plans to introduce starting next fiscal year, are now up in the air because the negotiations likely will be taken over by the Clinton administration, which will not assume power until January.

AWACS planes are capable of detecting any aircraft that intrude into territorial airspace from low altitudes. After detecting intruders, AWACS aircraft immediately instruct and direct other planes on how to deal with the intruders. The AWACS the DA intends to purchase are modified versions of Boeing 767's. The agency plans to introduce four such aircraft before the Mid-Term Defense Buildup Plan period ends in 1995.

In terms of the purchase price, which is the focus of the negotiations, the United States has been willing to compromise so far in negotiations with Japan. The current price is more than 60 billion yen per aircraft. The DA, however, is asking for further reductions.

Meanwhile, it has been said that the U.S. side will transfer future price negotiations to the Clinton administration, which will be inaugurated in January, and it is uncertain how the Clinton administration will deal with this issue. In addition, the DA needs to reach an agreement on the price with the United States before early next month in order to incorporate the AWACS purchase plan in the next fiscal budget. Therefore, the negotiations between Japan and the United States are becoming uncertain at their final stage.

FTC 'Reluctant' To Approve Beer Joint Venture

OW1411091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—The Fair Trade Commission [FTC] is reluctant to approve a planned joint venture in Japan between the two Japanese and U.S. beer brewers, Kirin sources reported Saturday [14 November].

The sources said Kirin Brewery Co. and Anheuser-Busch Inc., the maker of Budweiser beer, have shown a draft plan for their joint beer sales venture to the FTC. Under the plan, Anheuser-Busch will own a controlling 51 percent stake in the new company, to be launched after a license agreement between the U.S. brewer and Japanese beer maker Suntory Ltd. expires in June next year, the sources said.

The FTC expressed concern that the partnership between Kirin and Anheuser-Busch will further enhance Kirin's dominance on the Japanese beer market, they said. Kirin dominates the domestic beer market, with a nearly 50 percent share.

to confirm a news report that U.S. nuclear submarines are tailing the 4,800-ton Akatsuki Maru en route to Japan from France.

"We understand the American position that it cannot disclose specific operations, or the location of nuclear submarines," Kato said.

He noted that the Pentagon has approved the security measures Japan has taken to guard the shipment.

U.S. Government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Washington last week that an unspecified number of U.S. nuclear submarines are monitoring the freighter's journey until it reaches Japanese territorial waters.

The sources said Japan's escort ship, the Shikishima, which is armed with a twin 35-millimeter antiaircraft cannon and a 20-mm Gatling-type gun, is inadequate to fend off potential hijackers.

Kato also told the news conference that Japan is not planning to revise plans to ship some 30 tons of plutonium from France and Britain over the next 20 years.

The plan has stirred protests and official concern in many of the approximately 100 countries along the potential sea routes.

The Japanese Government has declined to make public the shipment route to deter possible attack. However, the environmentalist group Greenpeace has been shadowing the vessel with its own ship, announcing its successive locations.

Nuclear Fuel Firm Postpones Plant Construction

OW1611040792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Aomori, Nov. 16 KYODO—The start of construction work on Japan's first nuclear fuel reprocessing facility, which was scheduled for last month, has been postponed until next March, according to a revised schedule request submitted Monday to the Science and Technology Agency.

The revised schedule request for the reprocessing plant construction is the fifth by Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., which manages the uranium enrichment and reprocessing facility in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture.

The delays, brought about by the need for safety inspections more rigorous than previously anticipated, have pushed schedules back by more than two years and consequently the entire facility will not become fully operational until after the year 2000.

The first round of safety checks of the reprocessing plant project was completed in August 1991. The Atomic Energy Commission and the Nuclear Safety Commission are currently proceeding with a second round of safety inspections.

If the inspections go well, an operator's authorization is expected to be issued by the government by the end of this year.

The reprocessing plant is the focus of the uranium enrichment facility being constructed at Rokkasho as part of Japan's program to meet future energy needs.

The plant would reprocess spent nuclear fuel from power plants throughout Japan to recover plutonium and usable uranium.

The plutonium would be used to fuel Japan's fast breeder reactors, which constitute a vital element of the government's nuclear power policies.

Since Japan does not have the facilities to reprocess its own spent nuclear fuel, the spent fuel currently has to be shipped to France and Britain for reprocessing.

Once the Rokkasho facility is fully operational, it is estimated that it will be capable of reprocessing some 800 tons of spent nuclear fuel annually, extracting 4.5 to 5 tons of plutonium, which is equivalent to about 60 percent of the nation's reprocessing requirements.

Kato: Japan Supports Hong Kong 'Democratization'

OW1611041692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan voiced support for the democratization process in Hong Kong Monday, but declined comment on controversial democratic reforms proposed by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten that have angered Beijing.

"We support prosperity and stability based on a free economy, and democratization," of Hong Kong after its return to Chinese rule in 1997, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said.

But Kato declined to say whether Japan supports Patten's initiative aimed at broadening democracy by expanding elections prior to the territory's return.

The plan is being discussed by the British colony and China, "and Japan is not in a position to comment," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

China has repeatedly attacked the plan, which last week won the approval of Hong Kong legislators, as violating a basic agreement with Britain over the transfer of power.

Hata Denies Intention of Launching New Party

OW1411133792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1313 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—Finance Minister Susumu Hata on Saturday denied that his group intends to break with the governing Liberal Democratic Party to form a new political party. Speaking at a lecture session in Ueda, Nagano Prefecture, Hata said "it's not easy" to

establish a new party, noting that it would need to establish branch offices each with four or five staff across the country.

Hata is the nominal head of a 37-member splinter group within the Liberal Democratic Party's largest faction which comprises 109 members in all. Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP secretary general, is regarded as the real head of that group.

Following the retirement last month of political power broker Shin Kanemaru, the No. 1 faction has virtually divided into two groups—one led by Ozawa and the other loyal to the founder of the faction, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The pro-Takeshita group selected Keizo Obuchi, also a former LDP secretary general, as the faction's new head. Obuchi's group won a majority and seized the faction chairmanship.

Of the 109 members of the Takeshita faction, 49 are loyal to Obuchi, 37 to Ozawa, and 23 are regarded as fence sitters.

'News Focus' Reviews Sagawa Kyubin Scandal

OW1511023792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Unattributed "News Focus" feature; part one of two-part series on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal: "Money-and-Mobster Scandal Shakes Up Japanese Politics"]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—A yearlong scandal that has already toppled the main power broker in Japan's political world threatens to further shake the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as a story unravels questionable donations by businessmen to politicians and the use of gangsters to stop a rightist harassment campaign.

The biggest casualty so far has been Shin Kanemaru, head of the LDP's largest faction until a public outcry forced him to retire from politics last month after he admitted receiving 500 million yen in illegal political donations from the former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking firm.

New allegations involving other leading members of the ruling party emerged in early November in a Tokyo district court trial.

The LDP reacted furiously, threatening at one stage to bring a libel suit, when prosecutors read out a statement by the leader of a rightist group saying half a dozen senior party members were involved in trying to persuade the group to halt its harassment of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The group, Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan), regarded Takeshita as having betrayed former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, and blared ironic praise for him from a car driven round the Diet building at a time in 1987 when he was seeking the LDP presidency.

The statement, by Kominto's president, Ryumin Oshima, claimed that Kanemaru and six other LDP figures contacted Torao Inamoto, then head of the group, to stop the campaign against Takeshita.

On trial for aggravated breach of trust are the former boss of the company, Hiroyasu Watanabe, its former managing director, Jun Saotome, and Munenobu Shoji, president of Hokusho Sangyo Co., a real estate company linked with the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate.

According to the statement, a representative of Kanemaru offered 3 billion yen to Kominto to stop its anti-Takeshita campaign, and Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, offered 2 billion yen.

In reply to the Kanemaru envoy's offer, Inamoto, who has since died, reportedly said, "Bring Kanemaru himself over here and show me the 3 billion yen. Whether I grab it or kick it away, Kanemaru himself must watch."

Likewise, Inamoto turned down Mori's offer, saying, "We are not doing this (the campaign) for money," Oshima's statement said.

The five other LDP politicians named were former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi, Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the party's Diet Affairs Committee, Koichi Hamada, chairman of the party's Public Relations Committee, Hirohide Uozumi, parliamentary vice director general of the Defense Agency, and House of Councillors member Masaru Urata.

Kanemaru, Obuchi, Kajiyama, and Mori categorically denied the allegations. Hamada, Uozumi and Urata conceded they had contacted Kominto, but lashed out at the prosecution for divulging their names without seeking their confirmation.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki said November 6 that the party would file a libel suit against Oshima and the prosecutors. But on November 9 it dropped the plan, and Watanuki indicated that the individuals concerned rather than the party itself might file a suit.

Takeshita has also denied having ties with mobsters and said he will later explain his side of the story in the Diet.

Oshima's statement said he met with Hamada at a hotel in Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, in the summer of 1987, but they failed to reach any agreement on halting the anti-Takeshita campaign.

Oshima said in his deposition that he secretly taped the conversation with Hamada.

Former Sagawa boss Watanabe reportedly told prosecution investigators that Kanemaru conveyed a request

through him to Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai, to stop the harassment of Takeshita.

Kanemaru, a fallen kingmaker whose influence brought the last two prime ministers to power, finally agreed to submit to prosecutors' questioning on November 7, prosecution sources said. Prosecutors suspect the money he received was distributed to faction members, but Kanemaru reportedly told them he has no recollection of how the money was transferred.

Part Two of 'News Focus'

OW1511031192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Unattributed "News Focus" feature; part two of two-part series on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal: "Mobs Allegedly Behind Takeshita's Grab for Premiership"]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—When Noboru Takeshita became prime minister in the fall of 1987, a businessman with mob connections, Hiroyasu Watanabe, gave himself a pat on the back for his role in helping Takeshita reach the political peak.

According to statements read out in a Tokyo district court trial on the loan scandal involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., it was former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru who finally decided that help was needed from an underworld crime syndicate to solve a problem that could have prevented his political ally Takeshita from becoming premier.

Watanabe, former president of the scandal-ridden parcel delivery firm, has told prosecutors he recommended Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, as the man to silence an anti-Takeshita campaign by the rightist group Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan).

Watanabe reportedly made the recommendation when he met Kanemaru at a Tokyo restaurant in late September 1987, telling him, "It's best to fight fire with fire."

According to Watanabe's testimony, Kanemaru hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "I want you to ask him. President Watanabe, you are my only hope now."

Watanabe is currently on trial for aggravated breach of trust for incurring huge losses to the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin through providing and guaranteeing huge loans to several affiliated firms.

Around the same time, Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda also relayed to Watanabe a similar request from Takeshita to have the Kominto campaign stopped, according to a statement by another of the defendants in the Sagawa scandal, Munenobu Shoji. Shoji is president of Hokusho Sangyo Co., a real estate firm linked with the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate.

The statement said Watanabe telephoned Shoji in late September 1987 and said, "Mr. Takeshita has asked me through Mr. Okuda to suppress the campaign against him by Kominto through the influence of Chairman Ishii."

The prime minister at the time, Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was to name his successor, was saying that Takeshita would not be qualified for the premiership unless he could resolve the issue of Kominto's harassment campaign, Okuda reportedly told Watanabe.

Kominto was using a loudspeaker to blare ironic praise of Takeshita from a car driving around the Diet building.

Ishii first requested Tadashi Mikami, leader of a gang affiliated with the Kyoto-based Aizu Kotetsu crime syndicate, to act as his envoy and find ways of stopping the harassment.

At a meeting with Mikami, the former head of Kominto, Torao Inamoto, accused Takeshita of taking over an LDP faction after its founder, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, had collapsed and of trying to assume the premiership, Mikami told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Inamoto also reportedly said House of Representatives members of the faction led by Takeshita offered several billion yen to him to end the harassment.

But Inamoto finally accepted the request to stop the street campaign on condition that Takeshita visit his former political mentor at his home and apologize, Mikami said.

According to Shoji's deposition, Inamoto told Ishii in a meeting at a Tokyo hotel in early October that Takeshita must go to Mejiro in Tokyo, where Tanaka's home is located, if he wanted to become LDP president.

Watanabe said in his affidavit that Ishii told him on the phone, "It's all right if Mr. Takeshita shows an attitude like that only once. Inamoto says he does not care whether Mr. Takeshita actually meets Mr. Tanaka or not."

According to Watanabe's testimony, Inamoto reportedly told Ishii that both Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, and Koichi Hamada, chairman of the party's Public Relations Committee, had asked him to stop the anti-Takeshita movement, and that Kominto planned to use tape recordings of the separate talks with the two LDP politicians in its street campaign.

Inamoto also reportedly told Ishii that Mori had offered him 2 billion yen to stop the campaign but that he had replied the Kominto campaign was not motivated by money.

On the evening of October 5, 1987, Watanabe relayed Kominto's ultimatum for a halt to the campaign to

Takeshita, Kanemaru and Ichiro Ozawa, former LDP secretary general and protege of Kanemaru, at a Tokyo hotel.

Watanabe quoted Takeshita as saying, "The other day I went (to Tanaka's home) but could not meet him. If I try once again, the result will be the same. I will only wind up disgracing myself. I can no longer become prime minister."

Kanemaru, apparently in tears, reportedly encouraged Takeshita to visit the Tanaka residence. The basic purpose of the LDP faction led by Takeshita was to make him prime minister, Kanemaru was quoted as saying.

The LDP's biggest faction, formally called Keisei-kai, was set up on July 4, 1987, two years after Takeshita and Kanemaru angered Tanaka by forming a policy study group within Tanaka's faction.

At the hotel meeting, Ichiro Ozawa, former LDP secretary general, became agitated but did not say anything, Watanabe said in his deposition.

The three LDP politicians then agreed to ask the former justice minister, the late Shin Hasegawa, who had close ties with Tanaka, to facilitate Takeshita's visit to Tanaka's home.

Watanabe remained at the hotel talking to Hasegawa to seek his cooperation until dawn on October 6, paving the way for Takeshita to visit Tanaka's house that same day.

Although Tanaka refused to see Takeshita, Ishii reportedly told Watanabe by phone that Kominto had said it would now stop its campaign against Takeshita because he had complied with its demands.

Accordingly, the street campaign against Takeshita ceased, and on October 20, 1987, he was nominated by Nakasone and won the LDP presidency, and thus the premiership nine days later, after a token presidential poll.

Takeshita later reportedly expressed his gratitude to Watanabe for all his efforts on his behalf at a meeting in a restaurant, which was also attended by Kanemaru and Ihei Aoki, the late secretary to Takeshita.

A month later, Kanemaru offered Ishii a dinner invitation, Hokusho Sangyo's Shoji said in his affidavit.

Ishii initially seemed reluctant to accept, but Kanemaru renewed his invitation and met the gang boss for dinner on December 23, with Hokusho Sangyo footing the bill, the statement said.

At that time, Watanabe was beaming with triumph, and said, "The person in the private sector who contributed most to installing Takeshita is me," according to the deposition.

Takeshita stepped down in 1989 amid the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal and a fall in the popularity of his administration after the introduction of the consumption tax.

Chronology of Scandal Listed

OW1511035092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 15 Nov 92

[All dates as received]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—The following is a chronology of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal. (1987)

—July 4 LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] Secretary General Noboru Takeshita forms his own faction, splitting the one led by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.
—July The rightist group Nihon Kominto starts harassment campaign against Takeshita on Tokyo streets.
—Date not known Kanemaru calls for help from the president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., Hiroyasu Watanabe, to stop Nihon Kominto's campaign. Watanabe asks Inagawa-kai crime syndicate boss Susumu Ishii to intervene.
—Oct. 6 Takeshita visits Tanaka's home as requested by Nihon Kominto leader Torao Inamoto. Tanaka refuses to see him, but harassment ends.
—Oct. 20 Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone picks Takeshita as his successor.
—Oct. 31 Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru succeeds Takeshita as chairman of the Takeshita faction.
—Nov. 6 Takeshita elected prime minister. (1990)
—Jan. 16 Watanabe delivers 500 million yen to an aide to Kanemaru. (1991)
—July Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin dismisses Watanabe and its managing director, Jun Saotome, and accuses them of aggravated breach of trust.
—Sept. Susumu Ishii dies. (1992)
—Feb. 14 Prosecutors arrest Watanabe, Saotome, Yasuo Matsuzawa, former president of Heiwado Group, and Michio Ouchi, former director of Ichihara Tourism Development Co.
—March 6 Prosecutors indict the four on charges of aggravated breach of trust.
—May 1 Sagawa Kyubin merges five regional group companies.
—Aug. 27 Kanemaru admits he received 500 million yen in political donations from Watanabe and resigns as LDP vice president.
—Sept. 1 Niigata Governor Kiyoshi Kaneko announces his resignation over a money scandal involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.
—Sept. 22 In his trial on aggravated breach of trust charges at Tokyo district court, Watanabe denies making donations to politicians.
—Sept. 25 Kanemaru submits a written statement to prosecutors, admitting his failure to declare receipt of 500 million yen donation.
—Sept. 28 Prosecutors file a summary indictment against Kanemaru and indict Kaneko and his two

election campaign managers on charges of violating the political funds control law.
—Sept. 29 Tokyo summary court orders Kanemaru to pay a fine of 200,000 yen.
—Sept. 30 Kanemaru pays fine.
—Oct. More than 150 local assemblies pass resolutions demanding further investigation into Tokyo Sagawa scandal.
—Oct. 14 Kanemaru announces his resignation from the House of Representatives following a public outcry.
—Oct. 16 SDP [Social Democratic Party] files a complaint with prosecutors against Kanemaru and about 60 of his faction members for alleged tax evasion and violating the political funds control law.
—Oct. 30 Three opposition parties submit a list of 10 people they want to testify as sworn witnesses in the Diet.
—Nov. 5 The prosecution in Watanabe's trial reads an affidavit by Nihon Kominto President Ryumin Oshima naming seven LDP politicians as having contacted the group directly or indirectly to stop its harassment campaign, alleging two of them offered huge amounts of money.
—Nov. 6 The LDP announces a plan to file a libel suit against prosecutors and Oshima.
—Nov. 7 Prosecutors question Kanemaru.
—Nov. 10 The LDP abandons its plan to file a libel complaint.

Kanemaru 'Ready' To Donate to Public Bodies

OW1411140892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—In an apparent effort to appease public wrath, retired political power broker Shin Kanemaru voiced his willingness to donate to public bodies the 500 million yen he had obtained from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin delivery firm, sources close to public investigators said Saturday.

The sources quoted Kanemaru as telling public prosecutors he was ready to "donate it to public organizations to make reparations for my wrong conduct" unless tax authorities should order him to pay tax on the funds.

The one-time kingmaker of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, who played a pivotal role in sweeping Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to power in the fall of 1991, resigned as a House of Representatives member last month.

He was also quoted as telling the prosecutors he would "follow the tax authorities' order to pay back taxes" if such an order were issued.

Kanemaru made the statements on November 7, when he was questioned by prosecutors.

The sources quoted Kanemaru's political secretary, Masahisa Haibara, as telling the investigators the 500 million yen illicit funds were distributed to some 60 candidates running in the 1990 general election for the House of Representatives.

The sources said Kanemaru told the prosecutors that he had no knowledge of the recipients of the money, saying he "instructed his secretary to select the recipients."

As head of the LDP's largest faction, the 78-year-old retired politician once wielded significant clout, pushing to power at least two men, Miyazawa and his immediate predecessor Toshiki Kaifu.

Under Japan's political funds control law, political contributions are exempt from taxation, but politicians are banned from receiving over 1.5 million yen in political contributions from a single individual or corporation in one year.

Kanemaru acknowledged receipt of the 500 million yen from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. and resigned as LDP vice president in late August.

In September, he admitted violating the Political Funds Control Law and paid a 200,000 yen fine—an amount mandated by the law—to the state coffers.

The illicit money was reportedly handed over to Kanemaru's secretary from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, whose close links with Japan's second-largest crime syndicate Inagawa-Kai were detailed by prosecutors in depositions read out in court earlier this month.

Kanemaru's Hospitalization Called Apparent Tactic

OW1411122392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—Retired political kingpin Shin Kanemaru's abrupt hospitalization may prolong a legislative impasse over an opposition demand that he and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita testify about their involvement in a major political scandal, political sources said Saturday [14 November]. Kanemaru, who resigned as member of the House of Representatives last month, will be hospitalized Sunday to undergo cataract surgery, his son Shingo Kanemaru said Saturday.

Opposition parties criticized Kanemaru, saying the hospitalization is an apparent tactic to evade testifying as a sworn witness in the Diet. Social Democratic Party Secretary General Sadao Yamahana said he has "so far never heard of Mr. Kanemaru being ill." Kanemaru's hospitalization reflects the Liberal Democratic Party's position of avoiding a thorough probe of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Yamahana said.

The ruling LDP plans to ask opposition parties to accept bedside questioning of Kanemaru by directors of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee instead of a Kanemaru appearance in the Diet, LDP sources said.

The opposition said Kanemaru's summoning to the Diet is essential to clarifying his role in the money-and-mobster scandal. Kanemaru, 78, is regarded as a central figure among the 10 people the opposition wants to testify before the Budget Committee.

Because of the disagreement between the ruling and opposition parties over who should be summoned to the Diet, the lower chamber has failed since November 9 to convene the Budget Committee which is responsible for passing a proposed supplementary budget. The budget, which features much of a 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package unveiled in late August, calls for spending 2.99 trillion yen on public works projects and investment in the government's fiscal investment and loan program.

The opposition parties have insisted they will not begin deliberating on the supplementary budget unless their demand for summoning of Takeshita, Kanemaru and eight others is met. Because of Kanemaru's hospitalization, political attention will focus on whether the opposition camp will accept the LDP proposal of questioning Kanemaru in the hospital, political sources said.

Kanemaru has been suffering from the cataracts, which damage eyesight, for some time. He underwent surgery to put a new lens in his eye in July 1988, but his condition has deteriorated recently, said Shingo Kanemaru, his second eldest son.

The LDP earlier had indicated that it might allow Takeshita to be summoned, but refused to accept calling Kanemaru. On Friday, however, politicians expected Diet business might be normalized next week since Kanemaru had reportedly expressed his readiness to offer sworn testimony about his role in the scandal. Kanemaru was quoted as saying to senior members of the largest LDP faction which he once led, "I would not like to appear but am ready to testify."

The 40-day extraordinary Diet session opened October 30, mainly to discuss the supplementary budget and measures to stimulate the sluggish economy.

Kanemaru, former LDP vice president, quit the Diet because of severe public criticism of his receipt of a 500 million yen donation in 1990 from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking company. In late September, Kanemaru was fined 200,000 yen for taking the money, which violated the Political Funds Control Law barring politicians from accepting more than 1.5 million yen in political donations from a single source in a year.

Kanemaru, however, did not elaborate on to whom he distributed the money when prosecutors questioned him last week, investigative sources said.

Tokyo Sagawa's former president, Hiroyasu Watanabe, acting upon a request from Kanemaru, asked the then head of the country's No. 2 underworld syndicate Inagawa-kai to end a right-wing harassment campaign against Takeshita, prosecution sources said. Takeshita then was running in the 1987 race for the LDP presidency and prime ministership.

Under Watanabe's management, Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin extended more than 527.8 billion yen in loans and loan guarantees up to July 1991 to 58 firms and 26 individuals.

Watanabe has been indicted on an aggravated breach of trust charge for causing losses to Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, which, along with several other regional trucking companies, merged into Sagawa Kyubin Co., Japan's No. 3 trucking company based in Kyoto. Tokyo Sagawa is reported to have given more than 2 billion yen to a dozen politicians.

Kanemaru Postpones Hospitalization

OW1511035892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, a central figure in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, decided Sunday to indefinitely postpone his planned hospitalization for cataract surgery, his aides said.

Kanemaru's son Shingo told reporters Saturday that his father would enter a hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, on Sunday to undergo the eye surgery.

The 78-year-old former vice president and kingpin of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to be called to the Diet to testify as a sworn witness on the money scandal and his alleged links with gangsters.

The opposition parties reportedly reacted sharply against the planned hospitalization of Kanemaru, calling it a scheme to hide the truth of the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

The demand of the opposition parties that Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita be summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses was at first resisted by the LDP, and the dispute has held up deliberations on a vital fiscal 1992 supplementary budget package to stimulate the economy.

The opposition camp make the summoning of 10 people, including Kanemaru and Takeshita, a precondition for starting a parliamentary debate on the government-sponsored supplementary budget plan.

On Friday, LDP sources said Kanemaru would comply with the opposition demand so as to break the deadlock in Diet business.

Takeshita has also indicated his readiness to appear before the Diet to explain his alleged involvement in the scandal.

Kanemaru's decision to postpone his hospitalization indefinitely demonstrates his willingness to testify at the Diet in line with the opposition demand, political analysts said.

Kanemaru resigned from the House of Representatives in mid-October in the face of continued severe public criticism of his illegal receipt of a 500 million yen donation in 1990 from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking company.

In late September, Kanemaru was fined 200,000 yen under a summary indictment procedure for receiving the money in violation of the political funds control law. The summary procedure enabled him to avoid questioning by prosecutors and a court trial.

Kanemaru also allegedly indirectly asked a well-known gangster in 1987 to help stop a rightist group's harassment of Takeshita, who was vying for the LDP presidency at that time.

The approach was reportedly made to Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai, the country's third-largest crime syndicate, through Hiroyasu Watanabe, then the president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.

The right-wing group, Nihon Kominto, subsequently dropped its campaign against Takeshita, who was elected LDP president and thus became prime minister in 1987.

Kanemaru Enters Hospital 16 Nov

OW1611112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru was admitted to a hospital in Odawara, southwest of Tokyo, on Monday evening for eye surgery amid demands that he give testimony in the Diet over a widening money-and-mob scandal.

The retired politician has contracted glaucoma resulting from diabetes and is scheduled to undergo surgery on his right eye at the city-run hospital Tuesday, his doctor told a news conference. Initially, the 78-year-old Kanemaru was to enter hospital Sunday but had to wait until Monday for local police to be put on alert, hospital officials said.

Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), arrived at the Odawara Municipal Hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture after an hour's drive from his home in central Tokyo and entered hospital in a wheelchair.

Speaking to reporters in front of Kanemaru's residence, his second son, Shingo, said his father will stay in hospital for a long time because he has to undergo separate surgery on both eyes. Asked about the possibility of Kanemaru's giving testimony in the Diet, his son said, "That is to be decided in the Diet. Shin Kanemaru does not want to comment on that."

Opposition parties are demanding that Kanemaru, along with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, testify under oath before the Diet over his alleged involvement in the scandal before they agree to debate a supplementary budget plan.

Kanemaru expressed readiness Friday to comply with the opposition demand so as to achieve a breakthrough in the deadlocked Diet business, according to LDP sources.

The LDP is discussing with opposition forces a compromise plan to have directors of the House of Representatives Budget Committee question Kanemaru in hospital, claiming now that summoning Kanemaru to the current Diet session, which expires December 8, would now be impossible, party sources said.

Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), criticized the LDP for "forcing Kanemaru to enter hospital just after his willingness to testify was leaked."

The three key opposition parties remain determined to summon the former LDP kingmaker to the Diet, along with nine others they want to testify as sworn witnesses, political sources said.

The SDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party are demanding that the 10 be summoned to the Diet in connection with the scandal centering on Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., an express parcel delivery firm that has since been absorbed into the Kyoto-based parent Sagawa Kyubin Co. [passage omitted]

'News Focus' on Hospitalization

OW1611150492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1442 GMT 16 Nov 92

["News Focus" by Takehiko Kajita: "Kanemaru's Taking Refuge in Hospital Is Seasoned Ploy"]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Disgraced political kingmaker Shin Kanemaru will likely testify over his involvement in a money-and-mobster scandal as he took refuge in hospital, a place where individuals before him have gone to avoid the heat.

Kanemaru, under intensifying pressure from the opposition to appear before the Diet to give testimony under oath, was admitted to a hospital in Odawara, southwest of Tokyo, on Monday evening for eye surgery. The timeworn tactic perpetuates the practice often followed by notable Japanese when faced with crises.

Diet law relating to testimony stipulates that bedside questioning can be conducted if and when people summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses cannot appear before the Diet for health reasons.

Among other prominent figures who took the hospital route was Yoshio Kodama, a behind-the-scenes political fixer involved in the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal.

After being rushed to hospital in an ambulance, Kodama underwent questioning by a Diet committee representative at his residence. He was later indicted but died in 1984 before being sentenced.

Ironically, it was Kanemaru himself who questioned Hiromasa Ezoe, former chairman of Recruit Co., in hospital in October 1988, when Ezoe was asked to testify before the Diet about his alleged role in the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal. Ezoe was later arrested and indicted on bribery charges.

Kanemaru has reportedly contracted glaucoma due to diabetes and is scheduled to undergo surgery on both eyes, one at a time, indicating he will have a lengthy stay in hospital, possibly beyond the end of the current extraordinary Diet session ending December 8.

Kanemaru resigned from politics in October over his acceptance of an illicit 500 million yen political contribution from the mob-tainted Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

The opposition is insisting the former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) vice president's hospitalization is an attempt to cover up the scandal. Three parties have been demanding that Kanemaru, along with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, testify as sworn witnesses over their alleged roles in the scandal before they agree to debate a supplementary budget.

In an apparent move to break the Diet stalemate, Kanemaru expressed readiness Friday to comply with the opposition demand, according to LDP sources.

Whether Kanemaru's entering hospital means he has changed his mind or not is a matter of debate.

Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of the leading opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), blasted the LDP for "forcing Kanemaru to enter hospital just after his willingness to testify was leaked."

The three opposition parties have renewed their pledge to summon Kanemaru and Takeshita to the Diet, along with eight others they want to testify as sworn witnesses. The SDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party have been demanding the 10 be summoned to the Diet in connection with the scandal. But they will eventually have to accept a compromise plan to have directors of the House of Representatives Budget Committee question Kanemaru in hospital, political sources said.

Hideo Uchiyama, professor of political science at Tokyo's Keio University, said Kanemaru needs to appear before the Diet to testify, irrespective of his necessity for surgery.

"Politicians have a habit of saying they will stake their political lives on something. Along this line, (Kanemaru) should risk his own life and appear before the Diet," he said. "All Mr. Kanemaru should do right now is unravel the Sagawa Kyubin affair."

LDP Backs Summoning of Takeshita To Testify

OW1611135192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—The ruling party formally accepted Monday an opposition demand that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita testify before the Diet as a sworn witness to explain his role in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Scandal, political sources said.

However, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rejected another opposition demand that its fallen kingpin Shin Kanemaru and eight other people testify under oath in the Diet, the sources said. The LDP cited legal complaints against Kanemaru lodged with prosecutors by the opposition and citizens as a reason to refuse his summoning.

LDP directors were quoted as saying Takeshita himself had offered to take the opportunity to explain and the party is ready to accept his summoning.

Opposition party directors rejected the LDP offer, saying summoning only Takeshita is not sufficient to thoroughly investigate the scandal.

The Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party have on the table a list of 10 people they want to testify at the Diet as sworn witnesses, including Takeshita and Kanemaru. The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) has demanded an additional seven LDP Diet members.

Kanemaru received 500 million yen in an illicit donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. before the general election in February 1990. The former LDP vice president, who resigned from the House of Representatives last month after he received a summary indictment for accepting the money, entered hospital Monday evening for eye surgery.

Opposition parties said Kanemaru's hospitalization is an apparent tactic to evade testifying.

The summoning of Kanemaru to the Diet is virtually impossible because his hospitalization is expected to be lengthy, political sources said. The 40-day extraordinary Diet session now underway ends December 8.

The LDP plans to seek a compromise with the opposition on questioning Kanemaru in hospital.

The LDP had planned to start deliberations on the supplementary budget at the lower house's Budget Committee on November 9 but has failed to do so because of the disagreement with opposition parties over who should be summoned to the Diet. The budget, which features much of a 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package unveiled in late August, calls for spending 2.99 trillion yen on public works projects and investment in the government's fiscal investment and loan program. The opposition parties have insisted they will not begin deliberating on the supplementary budget unless their demand for the summoning of the 10 people is met.

Miyazawa To Push for Economic Recovery in Budget

OW1311134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa disclosed plans Friday for his government's promotion of Japan's economic recovery by making full use of the fiscal investment and loans programs under the fiscal 1993 budget, government officials said.

Miyazawa revealed the plans during talks with Toshio Komoto, a faction leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the officials said.

They said Miyazawa told Komoto that the government will issue a large amount of construction bonds and will compile a large budget to boost economic recovery through increased public works spending.

Komoto said a large budget is essential since Japan's trade surplus continues to grow due to a slump in domestic business demand, the officials said.

Komoto said the budget should be large enough to be acceptable at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in July 1993.

The G-7 comprises Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Britain, and the United States.

'Top' Executives Predict Slow Economic Recovery

OW1411072492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—More than half the top corporate executives have predicted a slow economic recovery starting next year, disputing an optimistic outlook by the Finance Ministry, a survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE showed Saturday [14 November]. The poll of 100 employers in major industries showed that 73 of them predicted the slumping domestic economy will bottom out in the first two quarters of 1993.

Forty-three executives predicted an upturn in the first quarter and 30 in the second quarter. Only 17 executives said there have already been signs of recovery while 10 forecast an upturn in the latter half of 1993 or thereafter, the survey showed. None of them forecast a quick recovery.

The survey covered most industries, including food, chemical, textiles, steel, nonferrous metal, shipbuilding and heavy machinery, automobiles, energy, construction and real estate, telecommunication and information, trading, distribution and services, banking and nonlife insurance, and securities.

While most employers expressed hope for additional pump-priming measures by the government, nearly 70 percent of them called for an income tax cut as a means to bolster an early economic recovery. Some employers appealed for tax incentives to stimulate real estate and housing transactions, which have been stagnant since the domestic "bubble economy" burst.

More than 30 percent of the executives pointed to a possibility of job reductions in a wide range of industries, with priority given to administrative and clerical workers. In the 1986 economic slump caused by the steep appreciation of the Japanese yen against other currencies, employment reductions were limited to the steel and raw materials industries.

The poll showed that 29 executives said the work force in their companies exceeds optimal levels. A total of 18 employers said their companies have already started trimming their payrolls while 10 others said job reductions are under study. Twenty-nine pollees said job reductions will be made through restraints on new hiring and relocation and transfer of employees.

Poll Views Relocating Government Outside Tokyo

OW1411092092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 14 KYODO—More than half of the Japanese people favor the relocation of government functions outside Tokyo, the Prime Minister's Office said in a survey released Saturday [14 November]. In the survey, 58.1 percent of responding residents favored relocating the capital, up from 32.6 percent in a similar opinion poll conducted four years ago.

The office surveyed 5,000 people aged over 20 nationwide in July and August, with 73.2 percent responding. Among the pollees, 15.2 percent opposed the relocation.

Observers said the survey results reflected recent active Diet debate and several proposals for promoting decentralization of the government, including ones by National Land Agency Director General Yoshiyuki Toya and a prime minister's private panel.

The percentage of respondents who were undecided about the issue in 1973 and 1988 surveys dropped in the most recent poll, with respondents deciding in favor of the move. The percentage of people who opposed the move remained stable, the survey shows.

If the capital is relocated, 62.6 percent of those surveyed said they expect Tokyo's land, housing and traffic problems to be solved.

Of residents in the Tokyo metropolitan area, including Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa Prefectures, 22.8 percent opposed the relocation, compared with 13.0 percent of those living outside the area. The reasons given for opposing the move were the effectiveness of integrating political, administrative and economic functions, and the expected huge costs of the move.

The problems of centralizing the government in Tokyo lie in the soaring land prices, deteriorating living environment, long commutes and jammed commuters, the pollees said. They chose as a solution to the Tokyo

centralization the relocation of capital functions to a remote area and the dispersion of part of its functions to an area near Tokyo.

'Life in Japan' White Paper Emphasizes Family

OW1311051892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0103 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Japan should intensify efforts to create an environment in which people can raise children more easily, so as to avoid a loss in its vitality as a nation in the near future, a government white paper said Friday.

In the annual white paper on life in Japan, the Economic Planning Agency said about 1.22 million babies were born in 1991, down more than 40 percent from the peak in 1973.

The fertility rate or the average number of children born per woman also sank to a record low in 1991 of 1.53 children, well below comparable rates ranging from 1.8 to 2.1 in the United States, Britain, France and Sweden.

Such a fall in the birthrate will cause a heavier burden to fall on younger and middle-aged people in supporting the increasing ratio of elderly people in the population.

More importantly, it will cause the nation as a whole to lose the ability to cope with change and challenge the spirit of innovation, it said.

"The decisions of whether or not to get married or to have children are basically up to the individual but a majority of people surveyed said they want to have an average 2.5 children," the paper said.

Various efforts are necessary at the levels of government, society and the individual to help make a better environment for raising children, called the paper, which was submitted to the cabinet.

According to the paper, one of the factors behind the declining population of young people is that more people are delaying getting married or staying single.

The average marrying age for first marriages in 1991 was 28.4 for men and 25.9 for women, compared with the 1951 figure of 25.9 for men and 23.1 for women. More than 32 percent of men and 13.9 percent of women in their early 30s remained single in 1990.

Young people are not in a hurry to get married because they want to spend more time getting higher education, and more women, in particular, now have more employment opportunities and can support themselves than in the past, it added.

Even after getting married, young couples tend to hesitate about starting a family due to concerns over the high cost of raising children and limited housing space. Women are especially discouraged by the difficulties of getting help with child care, the paper said.

The paper suggested that the government and society therefore should establish better backup systems for child care by opening more day-care centers and nursery schools, encouraging corporations to introduce child care leave rules at work places, and increasing information services about raising children.

Improving housing and social facilities for children such as parks and public libraries is also important, it said.

In addition, reducing parents' burden in education of children by such measures as increasing scholarships at higher levels of education is also necessary, it said, because the costs of sending a child to a private university amount to about 2.59 million yen for the first year. This is about 34 percent of the average annual income of parents at present, it said.

The paper called on corporations to make more efforts to reduce working hours for workers with small children and to provide more reemployment opportunities for women who have had to leave the office for a certain time in order to raise children.

More than 64 percent of women hope to be reemployed after they have finished the initial stage of child bearing, it said.

Also at the individual level, traditional ideas about the roles of men and women in the household should be changed, the paper said.

Almost 45 percent of women and 39 percent of men surveyed said men do not give enough help with household chores. The number of women who want to have children as well as a job is increasing, and they should be encouraged, the paper added.

North Korea

ROK Charge of Chemical Weapons Use Condemned

SK1511131092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0943 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Unattributed talk: "Premeditated Smear Campaign"]

[Text] The puppet South Korean Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] is running amok with a premeditated smear campaign to slander us.

In a report on the so-called actual conditions of biological and chemical weapons in North Korea issued some time ago in the National Assembly Defense Committee, the South Korean puppet NSP, a den of anticommunist stratagy, lied that we produced and stockpiled a large quantity of chemical and biological weapons in a bid to strengthen military offensive capability against the South. This is an example of the smear campaign.

In an attempt to give credibility to its deceitful propaganda, the bunch of conspirators fabricated a false number of stockpiled biological and chemical weapons.

It even described the albumin fertilizer plant in Sunchon vinalon complex, the Yongsong beer plant, and other chemical, food, and pharmaceutical plants as plants producing biological and chemical weapons.

The claim .hat we produce biological and chemical weapons and that we are preparing for chemical warfare is indeed a groundless and preposterous falsehood. This is a premeditated smear campaign prepared in a secret underground room of the puppet NSP, in accordance with the scenario designed to slander us.

The true aspects of this anti-Republic smear campaign, such as the incident of so-called Kim Nak-chung fixed spy ring and the incident of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] in South Korea, have been revealed, and false suspicion of our nuclear development has been exposed to the entire world. As the result, the smear campaign has become unconvincing. Accordingly, in a bid to shock public opinion, the South Korean rulers produced another slanderous drama depicting that we have produced a large quantity of biological and chemical weapons and that we are preparing for biological and chemical warfare.

Today the South Korean puppets are scheming to return the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is advancing toward reconciliation and detente after the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement, to distrust and confrontation through repeated smear campaigns.

The South Korean ruling bunch's smear campaign is also designed to turn public sentiment in the South that opposes the bunch in the face of the presidential election, toward anticommunism; to evade a serious political crisis by strengthening fascist oppression, and to prolong the military fascist regime.

This is not only the aim of the South Korean ruling bunch's smear campaign. This is also part of a reactionary propaganda offensive waged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in collusion with each other in a bid to spoil the image of our Republic. This is a contemptible maneuver designed to justify preparations for the biological and chemical warfare that they are accelerating in South Korea and to justify the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which they decided to resume in the future.

Our Republic participated in the Geneva Accord in 1925, which bans the use of poisonous chemical weapons. Accordingly, the government of our Republic always respects all international agreements on this accord.

Our people, in particular, are the very victims who suffered miserable calamities due to chemical and bacteriological weapons used by the U.S. imperialists during the Korean war period. Therefore, we oppose biological and chemical weapons more firmly than anyone else.

In a statement of the Foreign Ministry on 26 January 1989, we put forward a proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone and a zone free from chemical weapons.

Our initiative proved to be active efforts to remove the danger of nuclear war and chemical war on the Korean peninsula and to ensure peace and security, thus gaining support from the peaceloving people of the world.

Biological and chemical warfare is being prepared in the South, not the North. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets long ago worked out an offensive strategy for air-ground warfare by using chemical and biological weapons as the basic striking means. They accelerated full scale preparations for chemical and nuclear warfare.

They dragged about ten poisonous gas plants into South Korea in 1984. During the U.S.-South Korea annual Security Consultative Meeting in May 1985, they conspired about South Korea maintaining independent chemical warfare capability, and they introduced a large quantity of ion chemical weapon—a new weapon of mass destruction—into South Korea.

There are more than 40 underground storehouses of nuclear weapons and chemical weapons in area around Mt. Kyeryong in South Chungchong Province and near Suwon in Kyonggi Province. A great number of ion chemical weapons are being stored there.

According to the material revealed by the U.S. imperialists themselves many years ago, as many as 25,000 drums of chemical weapons of 10-odd types, including poisonous gas, have been stockpiled in South Korea and the surrounding area.

For many years, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets systematically conducted training pertaining to chemical warfare at a school of the puppet navy's chemical, biological and radiological warfare unit and at the puppet army's combat infantry units and schools. In particular, whenever the Team Spirit joint military exercise was conducted, they expanded and strengthened the offensive war exercise based on biological and chemical weapons, as well as nuclear weapons.

All facts clearly prove that those who produce and stockpile biological and chemical weapons on the Korean peninsula and who are perpetrating the chemical warfare maneuvers are none other than the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling bunch.

No matter how frantically the South Korean ruling bunch may adhere to its contemptible, deceitful, and slanderous campaign, it can never hide the truth nor can it achieve its ugly political aims. The South Korean ruling bunch should clearly keep this in mind.

The South Korean puppets should take steps to withdraw the U.S. nuclear weapons and biological and chemical weapons, which they dragged into South Korea, instead of adhering to a foolish scheme to slander us.

They should immediately stop producing chemical weapons and their preparations for chemical warfare. They should step down from power without delay, according to the demand of the people.

Paper Denounces U.S. Torricelli Amendment

SK1411113892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 14 Nov 92

["'Torricelli Amendment' Must Be Scrapped"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang Nov. 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Saturday urges the United States to immediately revoke the shameful "Torricelli Amendment" and stop all anti-Cuban moves as demanded by the Cuban people and the world peaceloving people.

The signed article says the "amendment" means the escalation of the anti-Cuban campaign of the United States, a criminal act of violating international law and international usage and the declaration of a total economic war against Cuba.

Recalling that the United States has long since resorted to every conceivable means and ways to stifle the economy of socialist Cuba, the article says:

Such acts were designed to nip the Cuban revolution in the bud.

The indomitable spirit and creative efforts of the Cuban people, however, have smashed the U.S. economic blockade.

Upset by the revolutionary confidence and will of the Cuban people becoming more unshakable after the end of the cold war, the United States is trying to totally stifle Cuba economically and break the confidence of the Cuban people in socialism by the "Torricelli Amendment." But this is a ridiculous daydream.

Radio 'Talk' Denounces Team Spirit Decision

SK1411034892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] More than 50 days have passed since the eighth North-South high-level talks were held. At the eighth North-South high-level talks, various annexed agreements for implementation and observance of the North-South agreement were adopted and effectuated and an agreement was reached on formation of the North-South Joint Reconciliation Committee and on the convocation of the first meetings of the four joint committees from 5 November with one week intervals.

The 70 million fellow countrymen warmly welcomed these agreements and earnestly hoped that such agreements would be put into practice satisfactorily and would contribute to expediting the peaceful reunification of the nation.

However, such expectations by fellow countrymen were demolished owing to repeated antireunification maneuvers of the South Korean authorities who are attempting to find a way for survival from reliance on outside forces and perpetuation of division.

During the South Korea-U.S. military committee meeting held in Washington on 8 October, the United States and the South Korean authorities decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise—a test nuclear war aimed at invading the North—next year.

As has been known to the public, for the past 16 years we repeatedly and strongly demanded of the South Korean and the U.S. side an end to the Team Spirit joint military exercise, with a view to ensuring peace on the Korean peninsula by removing the military confrontation and to providing preconditions for peaceful reunification.

Our just demand has been unanimously supported by fair public opinion of the world. Being unable to ignore it any longer, the United States and the South Korean authorities announced suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise last January and put it into practice.

As a result, North-South dialogue made a certain progress. However, to reverse the situation which was favorably developing for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and for the progress in North-South dialogue, the master and stooges finally took a criminal step for resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise despite the stern protests and denunciations of our people and the peaceloving people of the world.

To justify the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the United States and the South Korean authorities put forward the nuclear issue which does not exist in our Republic. This is nothing but a slanderous stereotypical act of those who specialized in overturning black and white.

Furthermore, the United States and the South Korean authorities decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which was suspended before the inspection on our nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] began, at the present time when nuclear inspection was conducted on many occasions and the peaceful nature of our nuclear policy has been clearly proven. This is indeed preposterous.

Judging from everything, the United States and the South Korean authorities are obviously surprised by the fact that the situation is developing favorably for progress in North-South dialogue. This is why they are dashing toward infringement on and obliteration of the North-South agreement while actively conspiring and

colluding with each other with the purpose of establishing a new obstacle on the road of reunification. This has been proven by the situation developed after the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise was announced.

The South Korean authorities staged a large-scale aerial war exercise codenamed 92-Operation for Victory Over Communists by mobilizing various types of military aircraft for nearly 15 days from mid to late October.

By putting a signboard of victory over communists on the war exercise, the South Korean puppets without disguise revealed that they are still dreaming of reunification by means of armed force and through victory over communists, not peaceful reunification, and that they are not interested, even to the slightest degree, in the North-South agreement which pledged nonaggression.

The act of infringing upon the North-South agreement by the United States and the South Korean authorities was revealed by the Eagle-92 joint field war exercise—the largest scale in history—being staged from early November.

The puppet army troops, the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces, and even troops of the U.S. Army outside the South Korean boundary are mobilized in this war exercise, which covers broad areas in South Korea including areas near the Demilitarized Zone. The total number of troops mobilized in this exercise reaches nearly 800,000.

Instead of responding to our just demand for cancellation of the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the United States and the South Korean authorities staged the Eagle-92 war exercise, the largest scale in history. Their act is indeed an intolerable act of challenge to lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The grave nature of the situation is not only limited to this. During the standing South Korea-U.S. Military Committee meeting held in Seoul in early October, a step was taken to organize the South Korea-U.S. joint marine corps command in early December under the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command [CFC]. By organizing this marine corps command, the South Korea-U.S. CFC will have four service branch commands under its supervision in addition to the existing ground force command, air force command, and naval force command.

The maneuvers of fabricating the South Korea-U.S. joint marine corps command are timed to coincide with the United States' recent step to deploy the Belleau Wood, a large-size amphibious warfare ship, in Sasebo base in Japan, and to make this naval base a launching base and offensive base against the northern half of the Republic. This should not be overlooked.

This illustrates that the U.S. imperialists and their stooges are running amok to work out the operational plan to attack the northern half of the Republic from the sea, just as their tactics applied in the war of aggression in the 1950's.

In a report made at the National Assembly Defense Committee in late October, the South Korean defense minister said that an agreement was reached with the United States on carrying out a strategy of using the puppet army as the main ground force and the U.S. armed forces as the main air and naval forces when a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula. This exposes a traitorous attempt to limitlessly offer the puppet army as the shield in the new war of aggression which the United States is scheming against the North.

In addition, the South Korean National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee a few days ago deliberated and approved the bill on the wartime South Korea-U.S. support agreement, which is an aggressive and traitorous agreement predicting limitless deployment of U.S. imperialist aggressor forces from outside South Korea in an emergency.

Timed to coincide with such antinational acts that aggravate tension on the Korean peninsula, another enormous smear incident called the incident of the Workers Party of Korea in South Korea has been fabricated and unprecedented anticommunist campaign has been carried out with frenzy. This is a fact widely known to the world.

Such situations, which took place in South Korea for the past 50 days since the eighth North-South high-level talks were held during which various annexed agreements for implementation and observance of the North-South agreement were adopted and effectuated, illustrate that the United States, reluctant to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, is instigating the South Korean authorities to these antireunification acts, while antinational elements in South Korea who are encouraged with this, are running amok with criminal maneuvers to nullify the North-South agreement, just as they did the 4 July joint statement 20 years ago.

Because of such criminal acts by antinational elements in South Korea, meetings of joint committees in various domains will not be held as scheduled. For this, the South Korean authorities should take due responsibility before 70 million fellow countrymen.

The fellow countrymen are ardently aspiring for reunification and the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration should be implemented without fail for national reunification. The South Korean authorities should immediately stop antinational attempts to nullify these two documents and should give up seeking survival by relying on outside forces and perpetuating division.

If they do not break away from these traitorous acts, not lending ear to the fellow countrymen's outcry of indignation, they will never be able to evade the stern judgment of history.

Japan's 'Lack of Independence' Broke Up Talks

SK1311235892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2232 GMT 13 Nov 92

["Japanese Side's Lack of Independence and Breakdown of 8th DPRK-Japan Talks for Normalization of Diplomatic Relations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—As is known, the 8th DPRK-Japan intergovernmental talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations was held in Beijing half a year after its seventh round only to drop its curtain immediately, failing to make any progress.

Why did the talks fail to progress, repeating idle run?

The answer is very clear and simple.

The whole course of the eight rounds of talks brought into [word indistinct] relief the fact that the Japanese side was woefully lacking in independence in its approach to the talks, something unbecoming to its bragging of being a "big power." Lack of independence on the part of the Japanese side was the main hindrance to the progress of the talks.

Japan must sincerely apologize and pay adequate compensations for her past crimes; otherwise it is impossible to normalize diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan. This is what the Korean side has clarified whenever the talks was held. The Korean side has repeatedly stressed that the kernel in Japan's liquidation of the past was for it to clearly admit that the Japanese imperialists' past colonial domination of Korea was an impermissible illegal act of aggression and to make an apology and adequate compensations from an honest position.

It goes without saying that the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule over Korea was totlly illegal since it has been proven that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" of 1905 and the "Chongmi Seven-Point Treaty" of 1907 were sheer fabrications without even formal approval or ratification of the then Korean emperor and that the "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" of 1910 was a document faked up in the same way.

What remains to be done under such conditions is for the Japanese side to liquidate the past from a rightful position.

The Japanese side, however, far from doing so, has read the minds of the United States and even of the South Korean authorities, thus bringing the talks to such a pass.

What does the "nuclear problem" of the DPRK, a fiction invented by the United States and the South Korean anti-national elements, have to do with the talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan?

As is known, when the United States and the South Korean authorities took issue with the DPRK over the question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord, the Japanese authorities raised it as one of the "preconditions" for the normalization of diplomatic relations. This problem was satisfactorily resolved between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and inspection of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear facilities by the IAEA has been conducted smoothly. Then the Japanese authorities lost no time to respond to the calls of the United States and the South Korean authorities for "mutual inspection" and "inspection of the same number," crying that it is difficult to normalize diplomatic relations unless they are realized.

Thus, they joined force with the United States and the South Korean authorities in their artifice to block the DPRK's just proposal for an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea.

As if it were not enough, they broached the problem of an unidentified "Japanese woman," a brainchild of the "Security Planning Board [SPB]," to deadlock the talks, thereby joining in the South Korean "SPB's" plot.

Such behavior of the Japanese side makes one think over and over how Japan which styles herself a "great power" has been reduced to a marionette acting to the tune of others.

International public, too, is lifting up voices criticizing the despicable stance and acts of the Japanese authorities. Those countries which have sympathized with Japan, even Western countries, are deploring the unjustifiable stand of the Japanese authorities, describing it as "a stance unbecoming to a economic power", "a show of a puppet dancing to the tune of others" and "a despicable move bereft of self-respect."

We cannot but be disillusioned about this act of the Japanese authorities.

As far as the nuclear problem is concerned, the Japanese side had better repent of what it is doing, instead of trying to find fault with others groundlessly.

It is a known fact that the Japanese militarists, dreaming of nuclear arming, made their ship loaded with nearly two tons of plutonium leave a French port a few days ago, inviting worldwide protests. Countries like the Philippines took a step of banning the transport ship from passing through their teritorial waters

Shameless enough, however, the Japanese side brought forth the nonexistent "nuclear problem" and even the problem of an imaginary Japanese woman, a brainchild of the "SPB" which had nothing to do with the talks, and finally, brought the talks to a collapse. It can never evade its responsibility for this.

Let us add one word as regards the Japanese side's argument that it is difficult to normalize diplomatic relations unless "nuclear suspicion against the DPRK" is removed.

Normalization of diplomatic relations with Japan is not indispensable to the DPRK, it is still less vital. Without diplomatic relations with Japan the DPRK has existed

with dignity under the banner of independence and will prosper forever by rallying the 70 million fellow countrymen amid support of the world's peaceoving people in the future, too.

The DPRK takes indepedence, peace and friendship as the ideal for its foreign policy and hopes to have good neighbourly relations with the Japanese people, proceeding from this foreign policy.

The moves of the Japanese reactionary authorities who are hindering the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, dancing to the tune of others and acting a marionette without indepence [word indistinct] grossly conflict with the desire of the broad Japanese people to have good relations with the DPRK after proper liquidation of the past.

The Japanese people will not pardon the rulers' crimes.

IAEA Inspection Team Departs 14 November

SK1511114192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 15 (KCNA)—The fourth irregular inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency led by Wily Theis, section chief of the safeguards bureau of the IAEA, left here Saturday.

No Tae-u Phone Remarks With Clinton Denounced

SK1511145992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] According to South Korean radio reports, the highest person in authority in South Korea on 13 November told U.S. President-elect Clinton that the U.S. troops must stay in South Korea.

In a phone conversation that day he said a continued role for U.S. forces is necessary for peace and stability in East Asia and their presence in South Korea must be maintained.

In talks with Japanese prime minister a few days ago, he repeated the same remarks. Such an attitude and position by him is a flunkeyist treachery, which denies the three principles of national reunification for independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

Today fellow countrymen in the North and the South unanimously want to achieve national reunification at an early date, based on the three principles of national reunification for independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity in order to end the history of suffering, and bitterly lamenting the misfortune of national division enforced by outside forces.

These principles expounded in the 4 July North-South joint statement mean that all fellow countrymen, driving out all outside forces from our lands, can peacefully reunify the nation in firm unity.

The North and the South adopted and effectuated the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Cooperation and Exchanges out of such aspirations. However, apart from implementation of the agreement, the highest person in authority in South Korea, not satisfied with ignorance of the agreement, personally showed ugly shape to beg the continuous presence of U.S. troops in South Korea while busily going around.

This is, in essence, a flunkeyist treachery and antireunification act to perpetrate national division by relying on outside forces, not to achieve an indepedent reunification of the country.

South Korea

'Excerpts' of Clinton-No Tae-u Phone Dialogue

SK1411014792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Nov 92 p 2

["Unofficial translation" of excerpts from the 13 November telephone conversation between President No Tae-u and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton]

[Text] No: How are you? I extend my congratulations on your being elected the 42nd U.S. president. Your victory was the reflection of the American's trust in your vision and policies. I am cherishing the memory of our meeting in Seoul in September, 1988.

Clinton: Thank you very much. I have a good memory of the meeting too and appreciate your kindness of allowing me an hour, while the whole members of the Korean delegation to the Olympic Games were left waiting.

No: The world is said to have ushered in the post-Cold War era but uncertainty and instability still linger. I know very well what you said—the United States must maintain its leadership over the globe. I agreed with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that continued role by the United States is necessary for lasting peace and stability in this part of the world. We particularly shared the view that U.S. troops are needed in this region at an appropriate level.

Clinton: I have a good knowledge of the contents of the talks between you and Miyazawa. I concur on the view that the U.S. must maintain its role in the Pacific area. As I said in a news conference before, the American troops will be there as long as it is necessary to keep them there. My administration will remain active in coordinating with Seoul to help stop North Korea's nuclear arms programs.

No: I am proud of the democratization in Korea. The effort for democracy here was greatly helped by U.S. support. Still persisting, however, is the residual of the Cold War on the Korean peninsula. Moreover, the suspected development of nuclear arms by North Korea is posing a great threat to peace in this part of the world and the whole globe.

Clinton: I'd like to add a word before hanging up. First, I extend my congratulations on the achievement of democratization in Korea. I also think it satisfactory that Korea-U.S. trade has been increasing continuously to settle the trade deficit problem. When I first met you (in September, 1988 as the governor of Arkansas in Seoul), the trade imbalance recorded an 8 to 1 ratio. Now, it has turned to balance, thanks to your efforts. I totally agree with you that North Korea's development of nuclear arms and other mass destruction weapons is a great threat to the entire mankind as it was the case in Iran and Iraq. I will coordinate with you to the full extent to eliminate the threat.

No: Korea will maintain its required role as an ally to Asia as well as a partner. We will make particular efforts for cooperation in maintaining peace, stability and democracy, while expanding the market economy. On behalf of my wife, I send my warmest regards to Mrs. Clinton.

Dialogue Stresses Security Commitment

SK1511021992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "No-Clinton Dialogue"]

[Text] The 20-minute telephone conversation between President No Tae-u and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton Friday went one step further than simply reaffirming the strong bonds of alliance which exist between our two governments. In unequivocal terms it spoke for the heightened awareness of their joint commitment and burden for protecting peace and security against their common adversary.

Clinton assured No that the United States would remain committed to the security of South Korea and continue to work closely with Seoul to deter Pyongyang's suspected development of nuclear weapons. The relative brevity of their talks did not diminish the timeless and significance of the occasion, dissipating to a large extent Seoul's simmering concern with how Clinton's election to the White House would affect the nation's defense and economy.

The special interest Clinton showed in the Pacific region and particularly Northeast Asia is indeed reassuring. Clinton made it very clear that peace on the Korean Peninsula is a major factor in the security picture of Asia and the Pacific, and that the stability of South Korea reinforced by its strong alliance with the United States is its linchpin.

No and Clinton also agreed that North Korea's suspected development of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is a "grave threat" to mankind. Therefore, close Seoul-Washington coordination is in order to eliminate that threat.

Clinton also expressed his support for inter-Korean endeavors with the view that they will be conducive to the reduction of tension on the peninsula and the eventual democratic reunification of the Korean people. Such a necessary political and security partnership should be founded on consensus supported by mutually beneficial economy and trade bonds. In this regard, Clinton voiced his satisfaction at the U.S. trade balance with Seoul, citing South Korea's efforts to iron out the trade imbalance.

Although no specifics were mentioned during the phone conversation, the two leaders shared the view that developments rapidly unfolding in Northeast Asia require Seoul and Washington to step up their partnership to their mutual advantage. Of course, there are a mountain of other significant and sensitive areas for both Korea and the United States to be concerned about. Yet, minor and casual fissures should not be allowed to widen and undermine the basically solid and enduring relationship of amity and cooperation, not only for their mutual betterment but also for their common contribution to stability in the reshaping of order in this part of the world.

The latest No-Clinton phone conversation was, to say the least, a significant occasion to reconfirm the growing need for a complementary arrangement to serve the interest of both sides and keep the region stable and in peace. Understanding each other as partners is undeniably the order of the day.

North Denounces Dialogue

SK1411005492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2300 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton had a telephone conversation with President No Tae-u on 13 November and resolved to abide by U.S. commitments to ROK security, which includes the continual presence of U.S. troops in the ROK.

North Korea denounced his remarks, saying that "this is to reveal the United States' secret intention to continue its colonial rule over South Korea."

In the radio of the South Korean National Democratic Front, which is disguised as an underground party in the ROK, North Korea denounced President-elect Bill Clinton's remarks, saying that his remarks reveal the United States' intention to continue its policy toward the Korean peninsula in order to realize the Korean reunification by defeating communism with a northward invasion.

Editorial Views Clinton's Policy Toward Seoul

SK1411121892 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14 Nov 92 p 3

[Editorial: "President-Elect Clinton's Understanding of ROK"]

[Text] A general outline of the Korean policy of the U.S. Democratic Party's new administration is being gradually revealed. As we expected, the trade subject has made us feel uneasy [kinjanggam]. However, President-elect

Bill Clinton made it clear that, as far as security relations are concerned, there would be no significant change from the previous policy.

In a telephone conversation with President No Tae-u and a news conference held for the first time since he was elected, President-elect Bill Clinton said that U.S. troops will remain in South Korea as long as they are needed. He again emphasized the joint ROK-U.S. efforts to deter North Korea's nuclear development, and expressed great interest in preventing the expansion of biological and chemical weapons, which are other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Thus, his understanding of North Korea as a threatening country and of the need for continued presence of U.S. troops in the ROK has been confirmed.

When President-elect Bill Clinton takes office as President, the new U.S. Administration's policy toward the Korean peninsula will be more concretely defined. However, the degree of his understanding of the Korean peninsula and of the importance of ROK-U.S. relations up to now has fortunately reduced our worries. We had hoped that the United States, regardless of who became its President, would invariably pay special attention to security and military stability in the Pacific region and that the need for the presence of U.S. troops in the ROK would be emphasized once again.

After Bill Clinton's election victory, there was a fear that the U.S. role in Asia, East Asia in particular, would be reduced, and thus a power vacuum be created. As if he were aware of such concern, Bill Clinton made it clear that the U.S. role in the Pacific region will continue. We welcome the pledge made by President-elect Bill Clinton on this policy. Needless to say, if a power vacuum were created, there would be enormous factors causing instability.

It has already been widely known that President-elect Bill Clinton will implement the economy-first policy. Accordingly, U.S. trade pressure will undoubtedly increase, and if such pressure is applied indiscriminately to other nations, whether their trade with the United States is in the black or red, serious friction can begin. However, it is fortunate that President-elect Bill Clinton highly appraised the ROK efforts to attain a trade balance with the United States. Unlike Japan, China, and Taiwan, the ROK is no longer in the black.

This notwithstanding, the pressure to open markets for agricultural products will be even fiercer. Just as the export of agricultural products is urgent to protect farmers in Arkansas, the ROK also has genuine reasons for protecting its farmers so that they can preserve farming fields and paddies. Moreover, farmers in the ROK are not in the position to export rice to other countries. They are opposed to importing foreign-produced rice. If they did, it would be impossible to produce Korean-grown rice. We would like to point out that the pressure for opening rice markets, if such opening results in the ruin of ROK farmers, would be directly linked to the security issue.

We would also like to emphasize that since the new U.S. Administration's understanding of the Korean peninsula is clear, North Korea should not waste its time by scheming to seek another possibility [saeroun kanungsong]. In particular, as long as the issue of nuclear development is concerned, there cannot be any flexibility. This issue can be solved only by dispelling suspicion on nuclear development through North-South mutual inspections. The sooner a wise judgment is made, the better.

Democratic Party Sends Group To Meet Clinton Team

SK1611093092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0722 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Party sent a three-man mission to the United States Monday to congratulate Bill Clinton on his victory in the presidential election.

The delegation will stay a week to discuss bilateral relations and trade issues with Clinton's transition team, spokesman Pak Chi-won said.

The party's chief executive chairman, Cho Se-hyong, and Reps. Cho Sun-sung and Na Pyong-son comprise the mission.

Yeltsin To Seek Increased Economic Ties

SK1411024192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Russia will seek a friendly partner in Asia and impetus for Moscow-Seoul cooperation in all areas during the Nov. 18-20 visit to Seoul of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Georgy Toloraya [name as received], head of the ministry's Korea department, was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying Russia didn't intend to curtail its relations with North Korea while improving ties with South Korea.

During the visit, a treaty on fundamentals of relations between the two countries, agreements on cultural cooperation and cooperation on customs issues, a double taxation avoidance convent and a number of documents on trade and economic issues will be signed, Toloraya said.

The first official Seoul visit of the Russian leader is aimed, first of all, at contributing to the development of political relations between the two countries, TASS reported.

Most significant would be the signing of an inter-state treaty on fundamentals of relations to juridically establish and contribute to the development of ties between Seoul and Moscow, it quoted Toloraya as saying.

The draft document has been prepared in full correspondence with the United Nations Charter and international legal acts, he said.

The major provisions say Russia and South Korea act as regards each other as friendly states and will carry out friendly relations. At the same time, it provides for holding regular consultations between the two nations' political leaders and developing contacts between the parliaments and citizens of the two countries.

In addition, the draft establishes major partners of bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural areas.

The document also carries a significant element. It cannot be used by the sides to the prejudice of a third state, showing that Russia doesn't intend to reduce cultural relations with North Korea while developing contacts with South Korea.

Pointing out that Russia and South Korea have considerable potential for broad trade and economic cooperation, Toloraya said that the potential hasn't been fully used.

Alarmed at the political situation in Russia and the absence of a full-scale normative-legal basis for the development of economic cooperation, South Korean businessmen are not in a hurry to enter the tempting but disturbing Russian market.

Therefore, a major aim of the visit is to give impetus to the cooperation in this sphere and encourage South Korean businessmen to boost relations with their Russian partners, he said.

Both sides hope for considerable progress in this direction, as the documents prepared for signing are expected to contribute to this, Toloraya said.

DPRK Diplomat Threatens To Cancel N-S Talks

SK1511100292 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] North Korean Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil said on 14 November that if South Korea does not withdraw its decision to resume the Team Spirit military exercise, North Korea will refuse to hold the ninth South-North high-level talks scheduled to start on 21 December in Seoul.

Moscow radio reported on 15 November on Ambassador Son's interview with that station on whether the upcoming ninth high-level talks will be held. Ambassador Son emphasized that the answer depends on whether the U.S. and South Korean authorities accept North Korea's demand. He said that if South Korea does not accept the North's demand to call off the resumption of the Team Spirit exercise and ultimately carries out this military exercise, the premier-level talks cannot take place.

Ambassador Son said that South Korea should announce its decision to cancel the resumption of the Team Spirit exercise by late November. He pointed out that the issue of suspending the Team Spirit exercise is the most important issue in improving South-North relations as well as in resolving the reunification issue.

Trade Minister Meets Australian Counterpart

SK1311055692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su met with visiting Austrialian Trade and Overseas Development Minister John Kerin Friday.

Han asked his counterpart for prudent anti-dumping steps against Korean imports and they discussed the Korea-Australia science and industry program decided on at September's trade ministerial talks.

Editorial on Debate Over Opening Rice Market

SK1411015092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Renewed Concern Over Rice Mart"]

[Text] The rice market opening issue is once again creating public concern and furor here as both the European Community and the United States, frustrated by such an extended delay in concluding the ongoing Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks, are reportedly poised to renew their respective clampdown on Korea over the issue.

Local farmers' groups have long made their voices heard and continue to exert pressure on the government to resist the international demand to open up Korea's agricultural market, especially that of rice. Apparently aware of the sensitivity of the issue, the government has repeatedly made it known that rice must be excluded at any cost from the market opening list.

The reasons is clear-cut and overriding. The disparity in the price of Korean rice and foreign products is conspicuous. Local rice commands six to seven times the average international price. Once our market is cracked open to imports of inexpensive foreign rice, Korea's agriculture, relying chiefly upon that commodity, is thus bound to suffer a fatal blow. Defense of the rice market is, therefore, perceived here as a dire necessity, on which the future of many millions of the rural population depends.

Once the domestic market is opened, the government will be compelled to restructure the farming industry and increase farmers' income through other welfare policy measures, making it all the more difficult for our economic policymakers to salvage the already declining rice industry. Besides, Korea's farmers have traditionally been an archetypal, conservative force. Alienating these conservative forces would prove to be unwise. Renewed pressure for opening of the local rice market is feared to contribute to that undesirable eventuality.

Although we trust our government will do its best in trying to persuade both the EC and the United States against giving rise to such an outcome, there is a limit to what it can do. We must look at stark reality and search for an effective way of coping with conceivable challenges.

Our objection to rice market opening is thus not indefinite. Korea needs to reorient the farming structure and farmland management for possible future opening. Indeed, the government has already begun to move in this direction, even considering a system under which paddies are laid idle alternately, with proper compensation for affected farmers.

Meanwhile, a drastic turn in the thinking and approach of both the government and the rural community is necessary to enable Korean agriculture to compete with other countries on an equal footing. A short-lived shot in the arm cannot go beyond appeasing and deluding our rural communities.

Certainly more time and latitude are needed for Korea to comply to the best of its ability with the recently renewed demand for greater market access. It would not pay to try to go all the way in one stroke. It would also be a pity to allow the rice issue to impair the traditional good relations between Korea and its U.S. and EC trade partners. If the United States and EC substantiate the impression that they bully their smaller partners in the cold and egoistic pursuit of selfish interests, it will serve the good of neither in the long run.

Burma

Military Plot To Assassinate Khin Nyunt Alleged

BK1511055792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0538 GMT 15 Nov 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Rangoon, Nov 15 (AFP)—A plot by junior army officers to assassinate the head of Burma's feared military intelligence has been called off following a plea to the conspirators from pro-democracy leaders, according to sources in hiding inside the country.

The plan to kill Major General Khin Nyunt is believed to have been hatched late last year.

The officers involved then contacted opposition leaders to tell them of the plan and ask them to be prepared to step in and take over the government.

But Burmese sources say the opposition members were horrified by the conspiracy.

"The pro-democracy leaders feared that any attempt to kill Khin Nyunt, even if successful, would lead to appalling reprisals by the military," explained one source involved in the negotiations.

"Also they know they are in no position to step in and run the country since most of their most capable leaders have been arrested," added the source.

The sources declined to give details of how many officers were involved in the conspiracy or when the planned attack was to take place.

So secure has Khin Nyunt become that he is now driven around the capital in a bright red Pajero four-wheel drive vehicle without the usual accompanying convoy of armed troops.

There is known to be friction between the 53-year-old Khin Nyunt and senior military commanders who are upset over his lack of front-line experience.

"Many of them see him as an upstart. They are also worried about his clear ambitions of power. That much is clear from private conversations with them," said one resident.

Khin Nyunt is drafting scores of the brightest military officers into the military intelligence where they are expected to stay for several years before going back to their regiments.

"Obviously Khin Nyunt is building up a power base to prepare for the future. He is very ambitious. He wants the top spot but at the moment he has been blocked," said another resident.

Both foreign residents and Burmese in the capital are convinced Khin Nyunt is preparing for the day when former despot Ne Win dies.

It was the aging Ne Win, whose ruthless one-man rule for over 20 years took Burma back into the Dark Ages, who snatched Khin Nyunt out of obscurity and made him intelligence chief.

Although now officially retired, 81-tear-old Ne Win, a former postal clerk, is still in charge and reportedly has regular meetings with Khin Nyunt at his home on the shores of Inya Lake.

"No major decision is taken without Ne Win's approval. While he is still alive he has the final say," said one resident.

"But although Ne Win is still believed to be in good health, Khin Nyunt knows he cannot live for ever and he wants to protect himself from the generals who have no love for him," added the resident.

Since the bloody crackdown by the military in 1988 that left thousands of unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators dead, Khin Nyunt has involved himself in the running of every major project in the country, making himself the most powerful man after Ne Win.

It is also believed to have made him one of the richest.

His ruthless campaign of terror has virtually eliminated the opposition parties, especially the National League for Democracy (NLD), which swept to victory in the 1990 elections.

Hundreds of political prisoners have been tortured at the hands of military intelligence. In a recent report the London-based human rights group Amnesty International reported that it knew of 20 secret detention camps where brutal interrogations take place.

"Even his friends are scared of him. No one feels safe from him," said one long-time Burma observer recently.

Most independent observers remain convinced that only the eccentric Ne Win, given to irrational outbursts of temper, can bring down Khin Nyunt.

But, for the moment at least, their are no signs of a split between the country's two most powerful men.

Torture of Detainees at Prison Alleged

BK1611021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] A Karen author has fled to the Thai-Burmese border after spending seven months in jail in Rangoon, the Burma Information Group reported.

Maung Sin Kye, aged 59, who was trailed by military intelligence officers after his release from prison, recently arrived at the headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) in Manerplaw near the Thai border.

The outspoken author was a member of the Burmese Writers' Association and was also the general secretary

of the Union Karen League, which was affiliated with the League for Democracy and Peace formed by former prime minister U Nu.

"There is nowhere for me even to carry on my career as a writer—I have no freedom, and lots of restrictions," he was quoted as saying.

Maung Sin Kye was arrested on October 10, 1991 after voicing open criticism of Rangoon's offensive against Karen guerrillas in the Irrawaddy Delta, in which he estimated almost 1,000 Karen villagers were killed.

"The Government should not try to solve this issue by violent means. This is in fact a political matter so I want people who have authority to find a peaceful way to resolve it," he said.

Maung Sin Kye said he was held in solitary confinement at Insein Prison until his release on April 29 this year under Declaration 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Two prominent writers, Maung Wun Tha and Shwe Ku May Hnin, were released at the same time.

An estimated 60 writers are believed to have been arrested when the SLORC seized power after the prodemocracy demonstrations in August 1988, that left hundreds of people dead.

About 13 writers are estimated to have been released over the years.

One writer, Maung Thawka, is confirmed to have died in captivity, "because of torture and ill-treatment" at the notorious Insein Prison, according to the Burma Information Group.

Another writer, U Win Tin, was said to be in "very poor health" two months ago, when Amnesty International expressed concern that he reportedly was being denied proper medical treatment.

As a central committee member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), U Win Tin worked closely with Burma's best known dissident, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since July 1989.

SLORC has tried to improve its image since a leadership change in April saw Gen Than Shwe replace Gen Saw Maung as chairman of the military junta that has been in power since September 1988.

Along other things, the SLORC has released hundreds of prisoners but thousands are believed to be still in captivity, with some kept in apparently inhumane conditions.

According to latest reports quoted by the Burma Information Group, a student has gone "crazy" after being "forced to crawl into the isolation cell" at Insein and watched by "trained German shepherd dogs" during his confinement there.

Maung Maung Oo, a second year zoology student at Rangoon University, initially fled to Thailand immediately after the coup of September 1988.

After suffering a bout of malaria, he went back to Rangoon the following December. He subsequently became a member of the youth wing of the NLD and was arrested "several times" before he was put into solitary confinement at Insein last year, where he is serving "a long term of imprisonment."

SLORC Releases 47 Detainees 14 Nov

BK1411141492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] It has been learned that 47 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released today from Bassein Jail after their remaining sentences were commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

51 Detainees Released 15 Nov

BK1511142392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] It has been learned that 51 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released today from Myaungmya Jail after their remaining sentences were commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Tourists Sue U.S. Authorities for Mistreatment

BK1611093492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0803 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Two of the 24 Malaysian tourists detained by the United States Immigration and Naturalisation Service in Boston recently have decided to sue the U.S. authorities for alleged mistreatment.

Lee Pek Hai and his wife Yap Ngun Foong said Monday that they were handcuffed when they appeared in court and he also [words indistinct]. The head of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) Public Service and Complaints Bureau, Michael Chong, said even after their release by the court, the couple was handcuffed while being taken to the airport for deportation.

"To make matters worse, their passports were also defaced," said Chong during a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan.

The couple was also threatened with imprisonment and made to sign documents which they could not comprehend as it was in English, Chong added.

Fadzil said although the 24 tourists were released after charges against them were dropped for diplomatic reasons, the ministry would look into the allegations before taking further action.

"Most of the official reports received indicate no evidence that the tourists were mistreated. Nevertheless, we will investigate the matter," he added. He said he had yet to receive any report from the U.S. authorities.

Fadzil said his ministry would also check U.S. laws and regulations regarding defacing of passports and take appropriate action, if necessary.

Mahathir Leaves for African Tour 16 Nov

BK1611071992 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, left for an official African tour early this morning. He will visit Namibia and Tunisia as well as attend the G-15 [Group of 15] summit in Senegal.

The official visit to Namibia and Tunisia are mainly to enhance bilateral ties. While in Windhoek, Namibia, the prime minister will take a close look at the country's fishing and diamond industries.

Malaysia is also expected to sign a protocol and economic agreements with Namibia during the visit. The visit was to reciprocate the trip made by the Namibian president to Kuala Lumpur recently. On the his stay in Namibia, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir will stop briefly in Johannesburg, South Africa.

While in Tunis, Tunisia, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is expected to hold a bilateral discussions with his counterpart. Malaysia will also sign a trade agreement with Tunisia during the visit.

The G-15 summit in Dakar, Senegal is the third summit since the inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The second summit was held in Caracas, Venezuela last year. The G-15 group is primarily to enhance South-South cooperation. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is the main architect of the grouping.

Significance of Chilean President's Visit Viewed

BK1411131992 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia is honored to have played host to the president of Chile, Aylwin Azocar, who was here on a four-day official visit this week. He was accompanied by a 130-member delegation, the largest ever trade mission to have ventured outside Chile. The visit is a reflection of the pragmatic approach adopted by both Malaysia and Chile to foster greater South-South cooperation in a world that is becoming increasingly interdependent, but still deeply divided by the economic gap between the North and South.

The South countries have realized the urgent need to focus on the socioeconomic development, rather than the political issues, which have occupied their attention (?50 years) ago. The machinery for increased South-South cooperation has now been set in motion with the Latin American countries moving toward the East Asian region and vice versa for greater economic and technical cooperation with each other. (?The need of an accord) to take in the Third World (?in general) is to withstand the pressures from the developed countries of the North, whom they had depended upon for far too long for the economic resurrection of their people.

Such dependence cannot be dispensed with altogether. However, the developing nations are beginning to realize that with the technological knowhow and expertise they have gathered over the past few years, they are now in a position to assist each other to develop their economy to such an extent that they can become a part of the [words indistinct] in the not too distant future.

The great divide between the developed North and the developing South is being gradually broken down. For the South, the goal will always be the formation of an open and free international trading system.

Malaysia and Chile have opened the way for a dynamic interregional relationship between South America and East Asia. Such a possibility would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. But now, with a rapid technological advances in communication, the situation is vastly different.

Malaysia and Chile see each other as partners in the South-South cooperation. They take encouragement in the fact that they have certain similarities apart from thi" cooperation, stable political climate, rapid economic growth, and above all, the desire to make a gateway to each other's region—Chile to South America and Malaysia to ASEAN and Southeast Asia.

Malaysian-Chilean relations were given the much-needed boost with the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and his delegation to Latin American countries last year. Since that first official visit by a Malaysian premier to Chile, the total trade volume between the two countries recorded a near 160-percent increase from 1990 to almost 380 million ringgit last year.

A positive outcome of that visit is the regular contacts being made with the Malaysian businessmen who accompanied Dr. Mahathir and their Chilean counterparts. President Aylwin's delegation also included about 62 entrepreneurs who have shown keen interest in setting up joint ventures in Malaysia.

The results will no doubt prove beneficial to both sides. Following the Chilean delegation's visit, Malaysia has decided to propose a regional cooperation primarily involving ASEAN and the Rio Group to establish soon. The Rio Group is a forum for political consultations comprising 10 South American countries, a Central American, and a Carribian nation. If this does materialize, it will all go well for greater South-South cooperation.

Deputy Premier Meets SRV Politburo Member

BK1311050892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0426 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is exploring the possibility of cultivating padi [paddy] in Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after receiving Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo member Vu Oanh, he said the idea was a good one because the padi could be brought back to Malaysia and would reduce imports.

"But we will have to study this matter carefully and determine whether it is a profitable venture," he added.

He said Vu, who was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Malaysia Ngo Tat To, also conveyed his government's keenness to facilitate a joint venture mini-truck manufacturing project with Malaysia.

"The matter has been discussed at prime minister-level between the two countries. Vietnam is keen to start the project as soon as possible," Ghafar said.

Cambodia

KR Demand To Deploy More Officers Rejected

BK1511085992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] At 1430 on 6 November, the secretariat of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] held a meeting chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel [name indistinct], head of the (?consultative group) of General Sanderson, military commander of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces, to discuss the proposal by the Khmer Rouge [KR] to deploy more of their communications officers in a number of zones under the State of Cambodia [SOC] control, namely in Sihanoukville, Stung Treng Province, and Samraong district in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Attending this meeting were Brigadier General Mol Roeup, representing the SOC army; Brig. Gen. Nuon Bunno, representing the Khmer Rouge army; Colonel Tes Chanthan, representing the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] army. There was no representative from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front army.

Speaking at the meeting, Brig. Gen. Mol Roeup clearly specified the stance of the SOC army concerning the deployment of these communications officers saying that, in the past, with a good will to advance the peace process, particularly a military solution in accordance with the second annex of the Paris peace agreement, the SOC army had cooperated with UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and UNTAC and agreed to the deployment of communications officers from all parties—including those from the Khmer Rouge—in many areas under SOC control, for example in Phnom Penh, Kompong Thom, Battambang, Siem Reap, and more recently in Kompong Cham Province and Sre Ambel, although the Khmer Rouge side has not yet allowed the deployment of the SOC and UNTAC officers in its zones, except in Pailin.

Examining the past deployment of Khmer Rouge communications officers, tasks have not yet been carried out as we have requested in accordance with the agreement. On the contrary, the presence of Khmer Rouge officers has instead worsened the military situation with incessant and increased violations of the cease-fire by the Khmer Rouge against army positions and people under the SOC's control. This has made the situation more tense, for example in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, and Battambang Provinces, and more recently in Kompong Cham Province, Sihanoukville, and Sre Ambel district in Koh Kong Province.

Brig. Gen. Mol Roeup stressed that in sum the demand by the Khmer Rouge side to deploy its officers in zones under the SOC control does not solve the military problem in accordance with the agreement. This is in fact aimed at serving this side's greedy ambitions. Even Khmer Rouge communications officers accredited to the MMWG in Phnom Penh have never solved any problems. In fact, at every meeting of the MMWG over the past year, whenever the UNTAC military commander asked something of the representatives of the Khmer Rouge army, they never acknowledged the question. On the contrary, these representatives kept repeating the same doctrine as their leaders and put forward incessant demands, thus blocking the peace process. Therefore, the demand by the Khmer Rouge army to deploy more communications officers at this time is unacceptable to the SOC army.

In the immediate future, it is proposed that UNTAC take measures to use the already deployed Khmer Rouge officers to produce positive results. In other words, these officers should properly perform their duty in accordance with their role and rights aimed at immediately ending Khmer Rouge violations in order to improve the military situation in zones under SOC control.

With a responsible spirit to defend the Cambodian people's lives and property, and in cooperation with

UNTAC, the SOC army reserves ample right to defend itself in the event such violations by Khmer Rouge forces continue.

The meeting was held in a tense atmosphere until 1900. In the end, the UNTAC representative agreed with the SOC stance of not allowing the deployment of more communications officers in Sihanoukville, Stung Treng, and Samraong district as demanded by the Khmer Rouge.

SNC Unofficial Beijing Meeting Summarized

BK1511023992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], attended an unofficial meeting of the SNC on 7 and 8 November with the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and a number of other countries at the residence of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing, PRC.

Following is the essence of the unofficial meeting:

1. On the night on 7 November, H.E. Khieu Samphan separately met with H.E. Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister, and H.E. Roland Dumas, French foreign minister, who are the cochairmen of the Paris international conference on Cambodia, and their colleagues. H.E. Ali Alatas asked to hear H.E. Khieu Samphan's observations on the implementation of the Paris agreement so far. H.E. Khieu Samphan informed the cochairmen that the agreement should be comprehensively implemented, both the military and political apsects. Military measures are part of the overall measures, that is UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the SNC should cooperate according to the roles stated in the agreement.

So far, however, the SNC does not have a role as the legitimate and sole source of power during the transitional period. Only when the SNC has its role as the legitimate and sole source of power during the transitional period can it cooperate and check that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and prevent these forces from returning to Cambodia. Only then can UNTAC and the SNC cooperate in correctly demobilizing 70 percent of all four parties' armed forces.

H.E. Khieu Samphan also informed the cochairmen about a major issue, which is of great concern to the Cambodian people. This is the issue of Vietnam dispatching increasing numbers of Vietnamese settlers to Cambodia. This issue cannot be solved if the SNC still does not have any role and if the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime continues to be maintained. H.E. Khieu Samphan has successively talked about the influx of Vietnamese nationals, continuously sent in by the Vietnamese aggressors, and written to Akashi; however, no measures have been taken.

Concerning the election, H.E. Khieu Samphan said an election in a situation in which there is no check on Vietnamese aggressor forces and held under the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime, is unacceptable to the Cambodian people because there is no neutral political atmosphere for the Cambodian people to decide their destiny themselves.

H.E. Khieu Samphan said the PDK and the Cambodian people respect and need a correct implementation of the Paris agreement. What has been done does not conform to the Paris agreement; the Cambodian people cannot accept it. He called on everyone to turn to implementing the agreement.

On H.E. Roland Dumas' question concerning the elections of the president and of the constituent assembly, H.E. Khieu Samphan said in the past, present, and in the future, the view of the PDK is that that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has a very important role and that only the samdech can rally the nation's entire forces. In a situation in which there is no control of the Vietnamese aggressor forces' withdrawal from Cambodia and while the political atmosphere is not yet neutral, however, organizing a presidential election in such a situation is tantamount to covering up Vietnam's act of aggression in Cambodia. The Cambodian people cannot accept it.

2. An unofficial meeting of the SNC, the cochairmen of the Paris conference, and the representatives of the five major powers, Thailand, Japan, Australia, and Germany, was held on 8 November.

During the discussion, H.E. Roland Dumas asked this question: What is the key issue blocking the implementation of the Paris agreement and what is the cause of this?

H.E. Khieu Samphan informed the meeting that the key issue blocking the Paris agreement is that the clause on the SNC role has not been implemented. If the SNC does not have a role and UNTAC cooperates with the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime, how can Vietnam be checked? Therefore, the key point to be resolved is to let the SNC have a role so that the SNC and UNTAC can cooperate in checking Vietnam and there can be a neutral political atmosphere for organizing the election.

Concerning the accusation by the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime that Democratic Kampuchea is planning a dry season offensive, H.E. Khieu Samphan said that to this day Cambodia does not have peace because the Vietnamese aggressors still remain in Cambodia after the Paris agreement. The Cambodian people had hoped that UNTAC would implement the Paris agreement so that Cambodia has peace and independence again. The Cambodian people, however, now have no hope of peace because Vietnam continues to constantly lauch attacks against the resistance forces during

the entire 14th dry season. Now Vietnam is preparing for operations in the 15th dry season.

The reason for this is that there was no check on the Vietnamese aggressor forces. H.E. Khieu Samphan proposed that if a meeting of the UN Security Council [UNSC] is held on the implementation of the Paris agreement, the PDK requests that it be allowed to provide clarification directly to the UNSC and the international community.

H.E. Son Sann said he has also issued a document to the UNSC to specify his party's stance. He informed the meeting that Vietnam has now dispatched many Vietnamese settlers to Cambodia. Furthermore, there is no security in Cambodia. Twenty members of his party were recently killed; a few days ago, three more members of his party were also assassinated. In such a situation the Cambodian people dare not inform UNTAC; however, if there is a neutral atmosphere, the Cambodian people would certainly show UNTAC where the Vietnamese are.

H.E. Roland Dumas summed up the meeting by saying that he will report the view of each party to the UNSC. He said his impression of the meeting is that no one opposes the Paris agreement.

SRV Sends 'Invading Troops' To Aid Phnom Penh

BK1311045392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] According to the people in Kompong Chhnang Province, the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors recently sent some 500 invading troops by boat from Vietnam to Kompong Hau in Kompong Leng District of Kompong Chhnang Province. The boat convoy of the Yuon invading troops sailed along the Mekong river past the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head's residence and the UNTAC headquarters in Phnom Penh, then moved up the Tonle Sap River toward Kompong Hau.

Among the 500 Yuon troops are a group of Yuon leaders and civilians organized by the Yuon Hanoi to carry out spying and political activities in accordance with the expansionist strategy of swallowing Cambodia. A quantity of weapons and ammunition was also shipped in.

The report adds that the Yuon aggressors plan to send reinforcements to Cambodia in a bid to assist the puppet army in launching offensive attacks against the national resistance forces in this dry season.

Vietnamese Troops Reportedly Hidden in Battambang

BK1411012692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Sources in Battambang Province say that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have hidden over two regiments of genuine Vietnamese troops in puppet divisions in Battambang Province. One regiment of these Vietnamese forces is stationed in Ta Kriem; another regiment is deployed along Route 10 from Sdau to Treng; and a company is stationed at Phnum Meas. These Vietnamese troops belong to Vietnam's 4th and 350th divisions. These troops are currently mixed with the 4th and 196th Divisions of the puppet troops.

This clearly shows that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have not yet given up their Indochinese federation strategy. At present, on top of Vietnamese forces hidden among puppet troops, the Hanoi Vietnamese have introduced over 2 million Vietnamese nationals into Cambodia. This is a plan to replace Cambodians with Vietnamese people.

This also shows that the true nature of the war in Cambodia remains that of Vietnam's war of aggression, both in the military war and the war to introduce people to annex Cambodia. It is on this point that the Cambodian people absolutely do not agree with any gross solution which would enable Vietnam to continue its aggression and occupation in Cambodia in any form.

Outbreak of New War Said Possible in Dry Season

BK1311054692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 13 Nov (SPK)—"The Khmer Rouge seek by all means to prevent the setting up of a legitimate government born out of the elections in Cambodia," to be held under UN auspices in May next year, noted General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC].

During a conversation he had in Phnom Penh recently with Mr. Katsuhiro Shinohara, counsellor of the Japanese Embassy to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), Gen. Ke Kimyan, who is also chief of the General Political Department of the SOC Armed Forces and chairman of the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, underlined that the Khmer Rouge opposed the elections because they would become rebel forces following the existence of a legitimate government.

"This is why the Khmer Rouge have refused to take part in the general elections organized by UNTAC (UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia)," he added.

The Cambodian general called on the international community to take appropriate measures toward the Khmer

Rouge who, far from implementing the peace accords, have grossly and constantly violated the cease-fire.

He also informed the Japanese diplomat of the efforts made by the SOC in implementing the peace plan since October last year.

On the armed violations by the Khmer Rouge, and particularly the failure of the extraordinary meeting of the SNC held in Beijing on 7 and 8 November in the presence of the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Gen. Ke Kimyan predicted that "another war might break out during this dry season."

SRV Reportedly Plans To Use Toxic Chemicals

BK1611005692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Nov 92

["Statement of the spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea concerning Vietnamese and their puppets planning to use toxic chemicals to kill Cambodian people in the current 1992-93 dry season" dated 14 November—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] has received a clear report from sources of the Phnom Penh army both in Phnom Penh itself and in Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces saying that the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors and their puppets have mapped out a plan to use toxic chemicals to kill NADK members and Cambodian people along the Thai border and on battlefields inside Cambodia. The Yuon aggressors and their puppets will begin using toxic chemicals on 25 November. Their aim is to eliminate the national forces, both soldiers and people, who are regarded as resistance forces against them.

2. Regarding this criminal plan, the NADK would like to inform the Supreme National Council [SNC] and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] beforehand so that they can carry out their duties as defined by the agreement.

3. The NADK would like to call on all NADK members and Cambodian people everywhere both in the rear and on the frontline to heighten their vigilance and take concrete measures so that they will always be ready to cope with any event either in the air, on land, and at sea, and be careful with food. It is imperative to prepare combat forces beforehand and get ready to smash this plan of the Yuon enemies and their puppets in the entire 15th dry season.

Dated 14 November 1992

[Signed] The spokesman of the NADK.

AFP Report on Hun Sen's Thai Talks Cited

BK1111075092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0424 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 10—Thai leaders repeated Tuesday pledges to comply with any U.N. order to close Thailand's border with Cambodia to pressure the Khmer Rouge into rejoining the peace process by blocking its lucrative trade, reports AFP.

The renewed pledges followed talks earlier Tuesday with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen on Cambodia's faltering peace process.

But Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri warned separately it would be virtually impossible to seal the 800-kilometer (500-mile) frontier and end the multi-million-dollar cross-border dealings.

After meeting with Hun Sen Tuesday morning, Chuan told reporters they discussed sealing the border to try to cut the economic lifeline of the Khmer Rouge, which has granted lucrative gem-mining and logging concessions to Thai traders.

Chuan reiterated earlier pledges to comply with any sanctions imposed by the United Nations, but added that even Hun Sen "understands the practical difficulties in closing the border".

Hun Sen, en route to Phnom Penh from an unsuccessful round of international talks on Cambodia in Beijing, was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Defence Minister Tie Banh.

"Hun Sen briefed me on the outcome of the Beijing meeting and asked for Thai cooperation", Chuan said.

The Beijing talks failed to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process by disarming and allowing U.N. peacekeepers into zones it controls.

"Hun Sen thinks it is very difficult to bring the Khmer Rouge back into the peace process, but he has not completely shut the door", Chuan said.

"I reassured him that Thailand, one of the country's which drew up the U.N. resolution, is sticking to that process," he added.

Thai firms dealing with the Khmer Rouge are widely believed to work in cooperation with influential miliary commanders, and the army's leadership has already said U.N. sanctions would be difficult to enforce.

Thai Army Commander Wimon Wongwanit was reported as saying earlier this week such sanctions would fail because the guerrilla faction was self-reliant.

But Supreme Commander Woranat Apichari told reporters Tuesday the military had drawn up plans for sealing the border if necessary.

Air Chief Marshal Woranat acknowledged closing the border would harm private Thai interests but said the national interest had to take precedence.

Foreign Minister Prasong, who had a lunch meeting with Hun Sen, also reaffirmed Thailand's readiness to comply with U.N. sanctions but stressed the practical difficulties of sealing the border.

Thailand was a staunch supporter of the Khmer Rouge during Cambodia's 13-year civil war, which was officially ended with a peace treaty a year ago.

During the war, arms and ammunition from China were channeled through Thailand to the Khmer Rouge and two smaller guerrilla factions in the anti-Phnom Penh alliance.

The Khmer Rouge control zones in Cambodia's west and north bordering Thailand and still obtain most basic supplies, including gasoline, from Thailand.

The U.N. Security Council has given the Khmer Rouge until November 15 to comply, after which it will consider further unspecified measures.

KR,Thai Businessmen Blamed for Deforestation

BK1611063392 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 15 Nov 92 p 22

[Text] Thailand has a bad name in Cambodia. Its businessmen and speculators appear to be buying up anything and everything in this war-torn country.

With their reportedly highly-placed connections in the Thai Government and military, they are also openly destroying Cambodia's forests, directly and indirectly.

"Many think that it is easy for Thai traders to come to Cambodia, fell trees and bribe the Thai military along the border to bring logs into Thailand," said an official of the Rehabilitation Component of the United Nations' Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The official asked for anonymity, saying she is on loan from a UN agency in Bangkok and fears that because of her statements, the Thai authorities may not allow her to resume her previous post at the end of her contract with the UNTAC.

A report on Cambodia to the UN Conference on Environment and Development—the Earth Summit—in Rio de Janeiro in June described Cambodia as having "exceptional qualifications to develop as a 'green lung' of Southeast Asia".

The report, jointly written by an official from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and an official from the World Wildlife Fund For Nature (WWF), indicates that 73 percent of Cambodia's 18.1 million hectares was reportedly forested in 1965.

It estimates the annual deforestation to be approaching 250,000 ha per year, and remaining forested areas in Cambodia total about 40 percent by now, although confirmation by satellite is needed.

The UNTAC rehabilitation official said, however, that no one really knows the extent of deforestation in Cambodia.

Who does what, where and for how long, is also unknown, the official said.

"Even those who gave out (logging) concessions don't keep records."

One thing is certain, the Khmer Rouge [KR] and Thai traders (with their reportedly highly placed connections in the Thai Government and military) are the main target of criticism over Cambodia's deforestation.

Thai authorities of course deny it is that easy to move logs across Thai borders and claim the criticism is unfair.

Nutthawut Photisaro of the Thai Permanent Mission to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) said the criticism stems from a refusal by the Khmer Rouge to disarm in accordance with the Paris peace agreements.

"The UN thinks the Khmer Rouge are able to refuse to take part in the peace process because they have income from logging and gem mining along the Thai-Cambodian border," he said.

He said countries other than Thailand are also actively involved in logging, especially along the Cambodian-Lao and Cambodian-Vietnamese borders, "but the UNTAC doesn't talk about it".

"In fact, there is logging throughout Cambodia," said Mr Nutthawut.

"If there is no more forest in Cambodia, Japan is first to blame and then Singapore and Taiwan."

He said the Thai Govemment has a clear policy.

"We do not support logging activities in neighbouring countries."

On January 14, the Thai Govemment banned the new import of logs from Cambodia, effective immediately. Only logs, which must have a certificate of origin, from concessions obtained before the January 14 deadline, are allowed into the country.

A Thai businessman from an influential timber trading family in a lower northeast province of Thailand, bordering Cambodia, said in Phnom Penh that he may lose 60-70 million baht in investment because of the ban.

He complains that the Thai Govemment did not even warn its people to prepare for the ban. I have been working to secure a logging concession from Phnom Penh since 1991 and when I finally got it I applied for border passage with the provincial authorities (in Thailand) on January 16.

"I thought everything was going well, only to be told days later that a ban had been enacted on January 14. Even the provincial authorities who processed my application did not know there was a ban."

He said he does not know what policies the Chuan Likphai Govemment will adopt but asks that the Government should at least warn its people well in advance before passing new legislation.

"We are Thais; we are close to Cambodia. Why do we allow traders from further away to rip the profits from here. If we don't log in Cambodia, others will," he said.

Logging has greatly accelerated throughout Cambodia, according to recent reports, since a moratorium on export-oriented logging was issued on September 23 by the SNC (though without approval from the Khmer Rouge).

"They are chopping away like mad," said the same Thai businessman.

The moratorium has set December 31 as the last day logs can be exported from Cambodia; from January 1, 1993, only processed wood can be exported.

"It is only logical that timber traders are hurrying to fell trees and ship them abroad. It is costly to set up an up-to-standard sawmill in Cambodia. Cambodian workers don't have the skills to process logs; the logs may be damaged and it would be a waste," the Thai businessman said.

The moratorium also calls for no additional concessions to be granted and for a review of all concessions granted by all four Cambodian factions to the SNC.

The UNTAC issued a series of measures on November 6 to put the moratorium in effect until a universally recognised govemment is set up in Cambodla following a general election scheduled for May.

Dr Hamid Temmar, deputy director of the Rehabilitation Component of the UNTAC, said neighbouring countries will be the first to be called on to help fight deforestation in Cambodia.

"The UNTAC is appealing to the international community for help as it does not have the physical means to enforce it by arms," he said.

Dr Temmar said there are two types of logging in Cambodia, that of "big reputable companies," and "illegal logging".

"We are concerned about the latter. There are a lot of illegal exports and these will go on unless the international community helps," he said.

The UNTAC rehabilitation official said there are also "a lot of illegal sawmills along the Thai-Cambodian border", which she claims roughly process logs just to meet legal requirements.

"This supposedly processed wood will be reprocessed again on the Thai side of the border," she said.

Neither UNTAC official had evidence as to the location of illegal logging and wood processing activities.

"Of course we do not have hard data," Dr Temmar said.

However, the Thai businessman said: "We have a bad name in Cambodia especially Thai timber traders. Everyone is suddenly environment-conscious.

"For me, it is not worth the investment to roughly process wood in Cambodia in order to reprocess it inside Thailand. Why pay for processing twice?

"There is an additional tax for processed wood to leave Cambodia and also the terrain along the Thai-Cambodian border is not that easy to move logs. It is not like one can cross the border just at any point. There are mines and there are also bandits," he said.

Meanwhile, the UNTAC will start implementing the moratorium at the beginning of next year and hopes that the series of measures to implement the moratorium can be applied effectively.

Dr Temmar said: "It will become more and more risky (for illegal loggers). Even if there are a few adventurers, the risk will become too high."

He said two Singaporean logging companies have already asked the SNC to register contracts concluded with one of the four Cambodian factions.

"The SNC is expected to renegotiate the terms of their contracts but if the contracts are approved, all four Cambodian factions will recognise the documents," he said.

Little is said about Vietnamese logging in Cambodia since 1979 when Vietnamese troops ousted the Khmer Rouge and helped set up the Hun Sen regime.

A member of the People's Committee of Minh Hai Province, Vietnam's southernmost province, said that each year since 1980 until recent years, the province had sent at least 100 Vietnamese workers into Cambodia to carry out logging.

Although he declined to reveal the extent of Minh Hai's logging in Cambodia, he said the workers went as far (from the Vietnamese border) as Koh Kong (on the Thai-Cambodia border).

He said Cambodian logs were shipped to Minh Hai for export to foreign countries while some of the Cambodian logs are for local use.

He said much of Vietnam's forests had been destroyed during the Vietnam War through heavy bombardments and through Agent Orange sprayed by the Americans.

"Each province along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border also sent workers to fell trees," he said. However,

he insisted Vietnamese workers are no longer being sent by the provincial authorities to Cambodia.

"All came back during the Vietnamese troops withdrawal at the end of 1989," he said.

However, a Thai businessman interviewed in Ho Chi Minh City said that Vietnamese workers are still being sent into Cambodia for logging "upon request".

The businessman, who requested anonymity, claims he has been conducting logging along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border since 1987.

A report on Cambodia to the Earth Summit quoted forestry officials as indicating that as of early April this year, logging contracts had been signed with companies from France, Thailand, and Indonesia totalling 145,000 cubic metres with another 175,000 cubic metres pending.

Total exports for this year are estimated at more than 1.1 million cubic metres. Among countries interested in buying timber are Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and France.

The report also pointed out that deforestation is not only the result of logging for export, but also logging for domestic use in reconstruction and mainly for fire wood.

Extreme pressure on land resources in Cambodia is likely with the return of 370,000 refugees from the Thai-Cambodian border, more than 100,000 soldiers being demobilised from all four Cambodian factions, and the daily cutting of wood by an estimated 160,000 displaced people inside the country.

"The cost of deforestation was evident in August 1991 when a flash flood caused an estimated US$150 million of damage to roads, reservoirs and irrigation structures in three central provinces.

"The Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed that logging in forested areas of Kompong Speu Province over the past decade has compromised the ability of that watershed to buffer the effects of sudden tropical rainstorms," the report said.

"Revenue from the sale of timber in the affected watershed is thought to equal only a fraction of the immediate damage by the flood.

"Longer term damage to agricultural land has not been estimated," the report said.

Indonesia

Government Extends Humanitarian Aid to Bosnia

BK1011013892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The Indonesian Government has given $100,000 in humanitarian aid to the Bosnian people. According to a press release by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta yesterday, the aid was handed over by Sumadi Brotodiningrat, Indonesian permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, to UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata in a function in Geneva last weekend. On the occasion, Sumadi said that the humanitarian aid was a manifestation of the Indonesian Government and people's sympathy and solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina for their suffering.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Embassy in Budapest, Hungary has channeled $216,000 in humanitarian aid sent by the National Committee for Solidarity with the Muslim People of Bosnia-Hercegovina to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina as part of efforts to alleviate their suffering due to Serbian oppression. Probosutejo, chairman of the National Committee for Solidarity with the Muslim People of Bosnia-Hercegovina, said at a news conference in Jakarta yesterday that the financial aid would be used to buy an ambulance and a truck to transport refugees, food, and winter clothing as well as to repair mosques in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The National Committee for Solidarity with the Muslim People of Bosnia-Hercegovina set up by the Indonesian Ulemas Council has collected over 3 billion rupiah from the people since early September.

Canberra, Jakarta Begin First Ministerial Forum

BK1611120192 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 16 Nov 92

[From the program: "International Report"]

[Text] Senior members of the Indonesian and Australian Governments have begun their first joint ministerial forum. While the two-day meeting is to focus on trade and economic matters it also heralds a new era in bilateral relations. More from our Jakarta correspondent, Ian Macintosh.

[Begin recording] [Macintosh] The joint ministerial forum, two days of group discussions and one-on-one meetings, involves 10 Australian and Indonesian ministers. Before the forum commenced, the five-minister Australian delegation called on President Suharto, who in April had agreed to a proposal by Prime Minister Paul Keating for the creation of a high-level gathering. Coleader of the visiting Australia group is Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

[Evans] President Suharto went out of his way to say that there were, from his perspective, no obstacles remaining to the effective continuing developments of the relationship. That's certainly the way we feel about (?it) here in Australia. I think it is important to realize that this is by far the most large and senior delegation of ministers to come (?through) to Indonesia. It does represent a new high point in the relationship and getting so many people here from Australia simultaneously on both sides of the table does give a new dynamic to the relationship, which is very important if we are both going to develop [words indistinct].

[Macintosh] In opening the forum, Indonesia's Senior Economic Minister Radius Prawiro spoke of the significant progress made recently in bilateral ties. A remarkable degree of healing had taken place since the mid-1980's when he said a cultural clash led to a series of misperceptions. Minister Radius said Australians often had difficulty grasping the vagaries of Indonesian politics while Indonesians found it hard to comprehend what he described as the quixotic nature of the Australian press. During 1986 he said this almost brought the two countries to blows. And his colleague Foreign Minister Alatas, accompanied by Senator Evans, offered this view of the ministerial forum.

[Alatas] It is a unique instrumentality that we have created now and we intend to make the best of it.

[Macintosh] Senator Evans, much has been made of what has been agreed to. What has not been agreed to? What areas of dispute still remain to be settled?

[Evans] Well, none at all. We are actually on all fours in terms of the [words indistinct] of economic cooperation issues on the agenda for this meeting, but one or two issues, about which role we are [words indistinct] (?continuing) minor differences of opinion. But that is the nature of the relationship, as complex as this one is, between countries like we are.

[Macintosh] The differences between Canberra and Jakarta do exist. It is clear that both governments are determined that they will not detract from the ministerial problem, which is all about building on the qualities in the bilateral relationship. [end recording]

Australian Minister Says Ties 'Pretty Good'

BK1211085992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Australian Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe says current relations between Indonesia and Australia are pretty good although the Australian press frequently raises sensitive issues. He is relieved that the issues can always be overcome in a cordial manner. The Australian deputy prime minister made the assessment during a meeting with Vice President Sudharmono in Jakarta this morning.

Disclosing the meeting to newsmen, Drs. [academic title] Sumadi [the vice president's press secretary] said the Australian Government agreed with Indonesia on the importance of people's involvement for the success of development programs. Australia views as correct the development trilogy—stability, economic growth, and the equal distribution of the fruits of development among the people. According to Drs. Sumadi, Vice President Sudhharmono told his guest that the government would give greater priority to the development of education, health, housing, and social services, particularly in the eastern part of Indonesia.

Touching on Australian aid to the that region, Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe, who is concurrently health minister, said that this does not mean that Australia wanted to interfere in Indonesia's political and security affairs. Australian aid for drinking water projects, for example, is meant for eastern Indonesian regions that badly needed the services.

Meanwhile, answering questions from RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] on concrete bilateral cooperation, the Australian deputy prime minister said Indonesia and Australia were cooperating in the training of medical personnel.

Sutrisno Meets With Thai Supreme Commander

BK1411095892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces, received a courtesy call from Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the Thai supreme commander, in Jakarta today. A press release from the Indonesian Armed Forces headquarters said the Thai supreme commander is visiting Indonesia from 12 to 14 November at the invitation of the Indonesian Armed Forces commander. The press release further said the Thai supreme commander's visit to Indonesia comes as an introduction after assuming his new post as well as aims at enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation in general and ties between the two countries' armed forces in particular.

Japanese Delegates Urge Improved Infrastructures

BK1511143692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1358 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 15 (OANA/ANTARA)—The visiting Japanese economic delegation has expressed the hope that the Indonesian Government will continue to improve infrastructures in the country in a bid to create an investment climate which is conducive to foreign investors.

The chairman of Keidanren (Federation of Japanese Economic Organisations), Gsihi Hiraiwa, said here Saturday in his capacity of the head of the Japanese delegation that the provision of better infrastructures would attract foreign investors, especially Japanese businessmen, to make investments in Indonesia.

He stated his view that Indonesia was the most ideal location for capital investment in Asia and one of Japan's important partners, especially with the support of political stability and reliable economic condition in this country.

However, it is still necessary for Indonesia to continue efforts to create more conducive investment climate, including the provision of better infrastructures like sufficient electricity supply, smooth telecommunication services and smooth transportation services.

Hiraiwa also stated his full support to Indonesia's efforts to promote non-oil/gas exports. But he also asked Indonesia to uphold the patent rights protection for manufactured products.

He also stated that trade relations between the two countries are expected to continue to develop in the future, and called on the ASEAN countries to be consistent with the efforts to create the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) which is open.

Concerning Indonesian businessmen's anxiety for the possibility of the shift of Japanese investments from Indonesia to China and Indochina, Hiraiwa conceded that the flow of Japanese investments to those countries has increased.

But the increasing flow of Japanese investments to those countries will not affect the activities of Japanese investors in Indonesia, according to the Keidanren chairman.

"Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries are important partners for Japan. Therefore, we are determined to further increase investments in this country," he stated.

He also expressed the hope that the promotion of Japan's investments in Indonesia would be discussed in the Asia-Japan economic meeting to take place in Jakarta in April 1993.

On the occasion, he stated that the visit of the Keidanren delegation to Indonesia was successful. While here, the Keidanren mission met with President Suharto, several cabinet ministers, the governor of Bank Indonesia and executives of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN).

Arrived here on November 13, the Keidanren delegation which consists of 13 Japanese businessmen will leave for home on Sunday, November 15.

Laos

Preparations for National Assembly Polls Completed

BK1311120592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] The national-level Election Committee said at a briefing yesterday afternoon that preparations for the Third National Assembly election have basically been completed nationwide. According to initial reports, there are 2,056,257 eligible voters throughout the country, comprising 57.3 percent of the entire population. There are also 18 constituencies. They are as follows: 1—Vientiane municipality; 2—Phong Saly Province; 3—Luang Namtha Province; 4—Oudomsai Province; 5—Bokeo Province; 6—Luang Prabang Province; 7—Sayaboury Province; 8—Houa Phan Province; 9—Xieng Khouang Province; 10—Vientiane Province; 11—Bolikhamsai Province; 12—Khammouane Province; 13—Savannakhet Province; 14—Saravane Province; 15—Champassak Province; 16—Sekong Province; 17—Attopeu Province; and 18—Sianghon-Hongsa special zone. These constituencies are divided into 4,512 election stations.

As for the list of the names and biographies of the candidates standing in each constituency, the national radio station will present them to you, listeners, in our newscasts and other programs beginning this evening.

Khamphoui Keoboualapha Returns From Australia

BK1611094092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] On 15 November, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance, returned to the capital city of Vientiane after participating in a meeting on investment opportunities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] held from 5-6 November in Sydney, Australia.

The meeting was attended by investors from more than 100 business enterprises, including 10 from the Lao private sector, from various countries in Asia and the Pacific, and other regions of the world.

The main objectives of the meeting were to promote foreign investment in the LPDR, to create favorable conditions for investment in Laos among foreign investors, and to inform them of Laos' open-door policy to foreign investment. All this is to encourage foreign investors' better understanding on the matter and attract them to invest in our country.

Furthermore, the occasion also served as a good opportunity for investors from Laos and other countries to meet and exchange views on the investment issue and real investment situation in the LPDR.

Apart from attending the meeting, the Lao deputy minister, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, also met and exchange views with leading figures in the Australian Government and visited various important economic bases in Australia.

Two New Districts Set Up in Xieng Khouang

BK1611112492 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 16 (KPL)—The provincial administration of Xieng Khouang has been allowed to set up two new districts on a decree of the prime minister in order to facilitate the administration in the areas.

One new district was named That (?Thom) (?which separated from) Mok District [words indistinct] covering a total area of 2,080 square kilometers, and (?having) 10,028 inhabitants.

The other was called Phasai which separated a total area of 1,380 square kilometrres, covering Siviangsai and (?Senkang) villages, from Pek District and Khontoun, Phasai, and Nong On villages from Khoun District. This new district has about 14,000 inhabitants.

The decision to set up the two new districts was to facilitate the administration of the said areas in conformity with their particular geographical [words indistinct] the provincial administration.

Military Courts Set Up in Six Northern Provinces

BK1511062692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] A ceremony was held in Luang Prabang Province in early November to announce the opening of military courts in six northern provinces with the presence of military court justices from Sayaboury, Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Oudomsai, Phong Saly, and Luang Prabang Provinces.

The setting up of these military courts will become a basis for creating favorable conditions for the army to more vigorously carry out judiciary and legal work in the national defense and public security sphere in the six northern provinces.

Philippines

U.S. Ambassador Criticized for 'Meddling'

HK1611092092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Nov 92 p 2

[Report by Chit Estella]

[Text] Rep. Romeo Candazo (Ind, Marikina) denounced yesterday U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon for meddling with an amnesty program being formulated by the Philippine Government for rebels.

Referring to Solomon's reported request to deny amnesty to the alleged killers of U.S. Col. James Rowe, Candazo said: "While we are still in that stage of formulating policies to ensure the success of our efforts to achieve genuine and lasting peace, U.S. Ambassador Solomon tells us to exclude Filipinos from the amnesty program, the most important initial step towards peace."

He branded as "improper and interventionist" the request relayed by Solomon through Senate President Neptali Gonzales (LDP) [Struggle of Filipino Democrats].

Candazo said the amnesty program must be left to the exclusive disposition and implementation of the Philippine Government "over which no foreign government or entity has the right to intervene."

Solomon reportedly told Gonzales that amnesty must be denied to the killers of Rowe because of an international agreement requiring host countries to provide protection to foreign diplomats.

Rowe, a counter-insurgency expert who served and was imprisoned in Vietnam, was slain in April 1989 by suspected members of the New People's Army while on his way to the JUSMAG [Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group] Headquarters in Quezon City. A suspect was arrested while the alleged mastermind, a certain Felimon Lagman, remains at large.

The amnesty program envisioned by the House of Representatives, as reflected in House Bill No. 322, calls on President Ramos through the National Unification Commission to grant "general and unconditional amnesty to all rebels and insurgents suspected, charged, detained, or convicted criminally or administratively before any court or administrative body, whether civilian or military."

U.S. Troops, Foreigners To Be Tested for AIDS

HK1311033692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] American soldiers and other foreigners will be asked to undergo AIDS testing before entering the Philippines. This aims to prevent AIDS carriers from entering the country. The Department of Health plans to implement this policy starting January next year.

According to a report, the adoption of this policy follows the concern aired by several congressmen on the increase in the number of AIDS-infected patients in the country. Congressmen aired concern that the government's open-door policy will endanger the health of our countrymen, who might be infected by foreign soldiers. Another report proposed that all foreigners entering the country must undergo drug testing.

Ramos Dismisses Chances of Invasions by Neighbors

HK1611104092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] President Ramos has dismissed the possibility of foreign forces attacking the Philippines following reports of an alleged arms race within the Asian region. The president said during his weekly news conference that he sees no danger of an armed invasion. The president said:

[Begin Ramos recording in English] We are not in a catch-up or arms race situation with our neighbors in ASEAN, Asia, and the Pacific. We—in the first place—are not really challenged by the threat of foreign invasion or the threat of an armed enemy intruding onto our shores. That's quite far-fetched. I have made that very clear before. What we would like, however, to do—as the primary objective of our modest modernization program—is to be able to protect our maritime borders. Our borders are all maritime. They are out there in the South China Sea, in the Pacific Ocean, and in the Sulu Sea. [end recording]

At the same time, the president stressed that the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will focus on improving its ability to protect the country's territorial waters and stop the illegal entry of foreign nationals, firearms, and contraband.

Military Rebels Establish 'Peace Panel'

HK1611061092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] A four-member military rebel panel for the country's unification has been formed. This was announced by National Unification Commission [NUC] chairperson Haydee Yorac, who said the peace panel's members are Jake Malajacan, Jose Comendador, Alexander Noble, and Proceso Superable. Yorac said the NUC is also establishing exploratory talks with a Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader. These steps, according to Yorac, aim to achieve the country's desire for peace. She hopes that in the near future, the government eventually succeeds in attaining national peace.

Police on 'Full Alert' After Communist Threats

HK1611065192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Cena de Guzman]

[Text] Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Raul Imperial has ordered all police units in Metro Manila and the provinces to be on full alert following threats from the communist underground movement.

Imperial's order came after he received reports that fresh graduates of the New People's Army (NPA) all over the country will stage attacks on various police and military stations.

Reports reaching the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame disclosed that operatives of the 251st PNP Mobile Force Company were conducting security patrols in Barangay Panuspoy, Camalig, Albay, when they encountered about 20 heavily armed rebels.

The firefight lasted for about 30 minutes before the rebels fled, leaving one of their slain companions.

Recovered from the scene were 12 shotguns and various subversive documents.

Likewise, reports reaching the Operations Center in Camp Crame disclosed that government troops overran a communist rebel camp in Baggao, Cagayan, following an hour-long firefight which resulted in the death of one NPA rebel.

Reports said elements of the 77th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army under Lieutenants Fulmano and Quedez attacked an NPA camp in Barangay Agaman Sur, Baggao, which was defended by about 40 rebels.

Reports said that the NPA rebels engaged the government troops in a fierce firefight for about an hour before they decided to abandon their camp. One unidentified rebel was killed during the gun battle.

The troopers recovered one M-14 rifle with six magazines, one homemade antipersonnel mine and subversive documents from the scene.

It can be recalled that last week, about 100 NPA rebels attacked the 2nd Composite Air Force in Cavayan Isabela, destroying two Air Force attack planes and a Sikorsky helicopter.

Ramos Swears In National Police Chief

HK1111144792 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] President Ramos yesterday formally swore in Police Deputy Director-General Raul Imperial as the second Philippine National Police [PNP] chief, virtually extending his services until 1993 [year as published].

Imperial was supposed to retire on May next year after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 years, but his appointment as permanent PNP chief has extended his tenure of office for another two-and-a-half years.

Under the law, the PNP chief has a specific tour of duty of three years unless the President removes him from his position.

But Imperial may have to wait until his predecessor, Cesar Nazareno, quits from the service before he gets his fourth star rank.

Again, the law provides that the PNP will only have one four-star general or director-general.

But Imperial is not in a hurry to get his promotion. His priority focuses on ways to improve and restore the PNP's credibility.

"Well, the immediate priority is precisely for the command to address the question of peace and order, especially on kidnapping and illegal activities and crimes," he said.

"This would mean we will have to look into the organization to see what changes are needed in order to be responsive to the mission and of course, we will continue with the programs of reforms in the organization, not only with the structural aspect but also on the need to come out with a more dedicated, more professional organization in terms of better training and value orientation of our people."

Imperial said he would immediately purge the organization of "lazy and corrupt personnel" as an internal affairs office has been created and strengthened.

He also wanted to improve the system of recruiting police officers and policemen to raise the "standards of performance" of law enforcement agents.

He said he would see to it that the attrition law on the police service be implemented tightly to weed out personnel who could not perform above the prescribed standards set.

He blamed politicians for some incompetent policemen because they would always lobby for their retention in the police service even if they didn't meet the prescribed standards.

Imperial also admitted that "jueteng" [numbers racket] operations continued unabated in some parts of the country, like Central and Northern Luzon.

He said the PNP has regular intelligence reports on jueteng operations and some prominent personalities were sometimes named in the report.

He also denied declassifying a report surveying the top earners among jueteng operations in the provinces. "I would like to make a clarification on that report, we have not released any figures on this."

Thailand

UN Peacekeepers From Cambodia Not Allowed

BK1411014592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Nov 92 p A1

[By Marisa Chimprapha]

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday Thailand would not allow United Nations peacekeepers to be stationed inside Thai territory if the situation in Cambodia worsened.

"Thailand, as an independent sovereign country, will not permit the UN peacekeepers to use its territory as a base if they determine that working in Cambodia has become too dangerous," Prasong said.

His comment came amid increased concern among the international community that there could be renewed fighting inside Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge is edged out of the peace plan.

The United Nations Security Council is now formulating punitive measures to be used against the Khmer Rouge for its intransigence.

The measures could include economic sanctions and sealing off of the Thai-Cambodian border.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai early this week, Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen indicated that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) might request the transfer of its troops to Thailand if conditions in Cambodia deteriorate.

Prasong reiterated that Thailand would respect any UN punitive measures against the Khmer Rouge, as long as they do not conflict with existing Thai laws.

[Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English on 14 November in a similar report adds the following: "Stepping up pressure on the Khmer Rouge by freezing their assets in Thai banks would be against Thai law, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday."]

If sanctions are imposed, Thailand's trade with the Khmer Rouge would be seriously affected. Thai traders have invested billions of baht in gem mining inside Khmer Rouge-controlled areas.

Over the last week, these traders urged the government not to follow UN sanctions that would result in business losses for them. Prasong is planning a meeting next week with those who would be affected to assess and find ways to cope with the situation. [BANGKOK POST adds: "Senior Foreign Ministry officials have made clear Thailand opposes economic sanctions on the grounds that they would be counterproductive."]

The minister questioned the plan to hold elections in May next year, saying it could go against the Paris peace accords, which stipulate that elections be held after peace and unity have been restored and all four factions are disarmed.

He said Thailand sees the current situation in Cambodia as unsuitable for the scheduled general election and fears that it could jeopardize long-term peace.

Prasong said the election date should be open-ended, giving the Cambodian factions time to settle their differences.

The minister urged countries concerned to use the remaining time to continue dialogue with the Khmer Rouge in an effort to persuade them to join the peace process.

The international community, he said, should reconsider the Khmer Rouge's demands for the verification by UNTAC of the removal of foreign troops from Cambodia and the strengthening of the Supreme National Council, which enshrines the sovereignty of Cambodia.

Ministry Official Reiterates Stance on UN Forces

BK1511013292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 92 p A2

[Text] Foreign Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Pracha Khuna-lasem yesterday said Thailand's position not to allow UN peace-keepers for Cambodia to be based on Thai soil was in conformity with the Paris Peace Accords.

His statement came amidst widening allegations that Thailand had reversed its commitment to cooperate with the UN after statements by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri during the past two weeks indicating Thailand's opposition to possible UN economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge which would affect Thailand.

Pracha said the peace accord allowed UN peace-keepers to transit, but not be stationed in, Thailand, which played a facilitating role in the UN operation in Cambodia.

Pracha also ruled out the possibility that Thailand would opt out of the Cambodian peace process.

Government Seen 'Opting Out' of Cambodian Peace

BK1411022392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Nov 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Thailand Opting Out of the Khmer Peace Process"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sq/Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri yesterday reversed Thailand's policy on cooperating with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) and turned to defend the Khmer Rouge, which is undermining the peace process leading to a general election in the wartorn country next May. He even found the Khmer Rouge an excuse for avoiding UN-sponsored international meetings on Cambodia, saying leaders of the radical communist faction dislike exposing themselves to scorn and accusation.

But Prasong, as a senior official in the National Security Council during the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror in 1975-78, should be able to tell whether there is any truth to the widely-held belief that the Khmer Rouge massacred more than one million Cambodians as part of its campaign to level Cambodian society and transform the country into an egalitarian democratic Kampuchean state.

In effect Prasong succumbed to the persistent arguments of those with vested interests in dealing with the Khmer Rouge. The self-centred Thais contended that what really was at stake here was over Bt [baht] 10 billion in business interests and 100,000 Thai gem miners digging for the precious stones in Khmer Rouge areas—not the UN-brokered peace process itself.

By continuing to do business with the Khmer Rouge, Thailand will lose nothing if the Khmer Rouge manages to return to power, because many of these Thais say, the guerrilla group could outlast Untac. Moreover, Thailand has never deserted the Khmer Rouge in time of need. If the group fails after the May 1993 elections and remains a guerrilla force along the Thai-Cambodian jungle border, then it will remain grateful for Thailand's support and avoid harassing Thai border villagers.

In that case, Thailand loses nothing either, because it has maintained a good working relationship with the other three factions, especially the Hun Sen government in Phnom Penh. Premier Hun Sen just called on Premier Chuan Likphai during a stopover in Bangkok earlier this week to seek Thai support for the peace process.

Under this strategy Thailand will emerge the winner regardless of how the situation develops, as all four Cambodian factions want to befriend Thailand. This sits well with the Thai military also because it does not want to have the Khmer Rouge as its enemy. Thai foreign policy makers like this win-win scenario as well because it allows them to muddle through without taking sides or acting on principle.

Thai investors in the area—many of them elected politicians inside as well as outside the Chuan coalition—just want to continue their lucrative ties with the Khmer Rouge. They will be most happy if the deadlock in the peace process remains. And the diplomacy of muddling through will do just that, for it enables the Khmer Rouge to defy the UN with impunity. In return, the Thai politicians will avoid rocking the boat at a time when the Chuan coalition is still clearly divided on several issues.

Prasong and his men at the Foreign Ministry seem to see no self- contradiction in this policy reversal. While Thailand is accepting international assistance in the repatriation and resettlement of Indochinese refugees staying on Thai territory, Thailand now says it will deal with the Khmer Rouge in its own way and will not cooperate with Untac.

Prasong yesterday even ruled out the stationing of UN peace-keeping troops on Thai border territory and freezing Khmer Rouge assets and bank accounts in case of a UN's sanction against the Khmer Rouge.

Furthermore Prasong questions the wisdom of holding the planned election next May without Khmer Rouge participation. But Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his French counterpart Roland Dumas, the co-chairmen of the Paris Peace Conference on Cambodia, are expected to propose the UN Security Council to call for holding the election with or without the Khmer Rouge, and consider a series of measures to put pressure on the Khmer Rouge if it refuses to join in the peace process.

Thailand was among the 18 countries in the Paris conference that signed the peace accords. But vested interests have apparently forced Thailand to opt out from the peace process although the Chuan administration claims in its policy statement to "adhere to international treaties and agreements to which Thailand is a party, including the UN Charter and the Universal Conventions on Human Rights" and "will give due significance to international cooperation" in strengthening regional peace and enhancing the role of Thailand in international arena.

One would expect the Chuan coalition—being an elected civilian government headed by a veteran politician of high integrity—to resist the temptation to defend the vested interests for political expediency and to uphold its commitment to international cooperation for peace in Cambodia. Prasong's policy reversal was not only short-sighted, but also a betrayal to all other parties who are still trying to restore peace to Cambodia by implementing the Paris peace accords.

No Change in U.S. Regional Defense Policy Seen

BK1511133692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Army commander General Wimon Wongwanit has left for a four-day visit to Brunei and the Philippines.

He said he would emphasize friendship with military leaders of the two countries in order to strengthen regional security. In the Philippines he will discuss U.S. military assistance to the region under the Clinton presidency.

[Begin recording] [Wimon in progress] ... In the United States, regardless of who becomes the chief executive there will be little change in the U.S. security policy, because the United States regards national interests as most important. I feel that although the United States is a democratic country and there is a change of president the main policies will not change.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you mean that there has been a confirmation to the effect that the defense policy toward this region will not change?

[Wimon] There will be very little change in the U.S. national security policy. There will be no impact on this region. [end recording]

Ministry Preparing for U.S. Trade Pressure

BK1511090792 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 15 Nov 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] According to a report from the Commerce Ministry, the ministry is preparing to deal with trade pressure from the United States under the Clinton presidency, particularly resulting from copyright and trademark violations involved in tape piracy, and from pharmaceutical production violations.

Information gathered by the Commerce Ministry shows that the major point in violation of intellectual property rights is the fact that U.S. manufacturers have not been serious in prosecution of violators.

During January-September 1992, the Thai investigation unit arrested 104 videotape pirates. However, the damaged parties, particularly foreign tape companies or their local agents, usually did not take the violators to court because most pirates were themselves agents of those companies. The pirates sold both genuine and pirate copies.

The prosecution was usually made against minor pirates who were not agents of the foreign producers. This caused local agents to step up piracy because they believed that a compromise could be reached.

On the average, 20 percent of tape piracy cases were settled in the investigation stage and 50 percent in the prosecutorial stage. The report says: "This information about lack of intent to prosecute by U.S. tape companies will allow us to defend against the U.S. or EC charges and plans to impose retaliatory trading measures for Thailand's failure to protect intellectual property rights."

U.S. tape companies who are members of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, such as EMI Records, Atlantic Records, WEA International, and CBS Records, have filed complaints with the U.S. Trade Representative Office for the office to retaliate under Article 301.

Phiphat Intharasap, the director general of the Intellectual Property Department, informed NAEO NA that the Commerce Ministry has set up a special unit headed by Suchit Aphiradi, a grade 10 official, to accept and investigate complaints from U.S. and European tape producers.

Ministry To Prepare for GSP Talks With U.S.

BK1411024592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Nov 92 p 13

[Text] The International Economic Relations Policy Committee has assigned the Commerce Ministry to prepare itself for negotiations on Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges with the new US Government, committee chairman Dr Suphachai Phanitchphak said yesterday.

He said the US will consider such privileges for Thailand around the middle of next month and is watching what the Thai Government will do on its labour law and child labour problem.

He said he told the ministry to explain to the US that the Government is improving the labour law to make it more democratic and give workers more bargaining power.

He also told the ministry that the Government will take drastic action against all parties found guilty of child labour abuses.

Dr Suphachai added that if the Thai Government can handle the two issues effectively, the US is expected to maintain GSP privileges for Thailand.

He said the committee has also assigned the Foreign Affairs Ministry to hold talks with the transitional team of President-elect Bill Clinton via the Thai Embassy in Washington.

He said Thailand particularly wants to know the new US Government's clear-cut policies and attitudes on Thailand and Asia, so they can work on their policies.

He also said the committee has invited US congressmen to visit Thailand in order to forge closer relations with the Thai Parliament.

He said US Congress had in the past displayed a trend of raising trade barriers against Thailand, but with closer relations between the Thai Parliament and US Congress, trade problems can be solved more easily.

Dr Suphachai said the Commerce Ministry is also asked to prepare for negotiations with the new US Trade Representative on pharmaceutical patents and copyrights.

He said there is a strong trend that the Government will amend both laws in conjunction with the guidelines of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Meanwhile, the committee has assigned the Finance Ministry to organise a meeting of the AFTA Committee to consider items and time to adjust taxes of three main groups of items under the AFTA agreement.

Trade Along Cambodian Border 'Slowing Down'

BK1411053792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] Trading along the Thai-Cambodia border is slowing down following the failure of Khmer peace talks in Beijing.

A report from Ubon Ratchathani Province said border trade at An-ma Pass in Nam Yuen District, opposite Choam Khasan District, Preah Vihear Province, is unusually quiet as Thai and Khmer officials are unsure that peace will prevail.

A Thai soldier disclosed that UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials had recently returned arms to other Cambodian factions after the Khmer Rouge began shelling Choam Khasan District, some 35 kilometres from the Thai border, and more than 10 mortar shells landed on houses on Tuesday.

Some 500 Khmers fled their homes to seek refuge at An-ma Pass but many were urged to return home yesterday.

The source said that Thai soldiers are on alert in case fighting escalates.

Khmer district police chief at An-ma, Lt Sam An, predicted that chaos will break out in Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge refuse peace. If Thailand closes the border, a lot of Khmer people will be affected.

In Trat, the Khmer Rouge has asked Thai gem traders to sign new contracts to dig rubies opposite Bo Rai District.

The new contract will allow eaeh trader to dig rubies for one month instead of six.

The fee for each concession is 100,000 baht. The profits will be shared half and half.

The change has caused concern to seven Thai companies dealing in gems in Cambodia.

Some of them have started to pull out their equipment from Cambodia for fear that the United Nations will slap trade sanctions on the Khmer Rouge.

Foreign Minister 'Forced To Postpone' Laos Trip

BK1511012392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 92 p A3

[By Kulachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has been forced to postpone his trip to Laos this week because authorities there are not ready yet to prepare for his visit.

His trip to Laos originally set for Nov 19 to 21 was to have been the first in a planned tour of neighbouring nations which will take him to Vietnam next month.

Vientiane Ambassador to Thailand Bounkeut Sangsomsak said after a courtesy call on the minister on Friday that his government would need time to prepare for the trip, which he described as "meaningful to Laos as it tops Prasong's travel itinerary".

Prasong last month went to Manila to attend the Asean-EC ministerial meeting where he introduced himself to both his Asean and EC counterparts, but that was not regarded as a genuine official visit to the Philippines.

Bounkeut said Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut was currently abroad and would not have enough time to prepare for Prasong's proposed visit.

Though a new schedule is yet to be worked out pending Phoun's return Bounkeut said it should be before the election of Laos' People's Assembly scheduled for Dec 20.

Prasong has said there would be a continuation of his predecessor's foreign policy of placing emphasis on immediate neighbours Laos, Cambodia and Burma, and has indicated that he would choose to travel to his former Cold War foes, Laos and Vietnam first.

During his seven-year tenure as chief of National Security Council between 1980-1987, the CIA-trained Prasong was an anti-Communist hardliner.

Thailand then was known to have given support and sanctuary to the anti-Communist Pathet Lao movement which was trained and financed by the United States.

Thai-Laotian relations have been on the upturn since the end of a bloody border incident known as the "Baan Romklao conflict" between 1986-1987.

The administration of former Premier Anan Panyarachun last year set aside more than Bt [baht] 70 million worth of technical and social assistance to Laos.

A joint ministerial body was also set up by Prasong's predecessor Asa Sarasin to oversee bilateral security and economic issues. The sub-committees on border demarcation and border affairs were also brought under its aegis.

Asa's trip to Laos last year also bought to an end the monopoly of crossborder transportation by Thailand's Express Transportation Organization (ETO). Transport is now carried out by a Thai-Laotian joint venture, for which the land-locked nation had been pushing.

Vietnam

U.S. Senators Visiting on POW/MIA Mission

BK1411065692 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 14—Chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on MIA/POW Issue Senator

John Kerry, and Senators Tom Daschle and Hank Brown will visit Vietnam and Laos from Nov. 12-22, said a communique released on Nov. 12 by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on MIA/POW Issue.

In this second visit to Southeast Asia, the U.S. senators plan to meet with high-ranking officials of Vietnam and look for possible sources of information in this issue.

The delegation is expected in Hanoi on Nov. 16.

Hanoi Calls For UN Measures Against Khmer Rouge

BK1611105392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas warned that there is no time left for the peace process in Cambodia. Speaking in Beijing following the informal meeting on Cambodia, the Indonesian foreign minister said that the meeting was held to persuade the Khmer Rouge to disarm their troops. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, co-chairman of the Paris agreement on Cambodia, in 1991 also made the same warning against the Khmer Rouge. Here is our radio comment on this issue:

Mr. Ali Alatas and Mr. Roland Dumas, the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] are well known for their flexible and moderate attitude. However, in recent days they could not help being indignant at the Khmer Rouge's attitude at the informal meeting on Cambodia in Beijing.

Speaking to newsmen in Beijing, Mr. Ali Alatas said he could not bear the Khmer Rouge's refusal to disarm their troops which endangered the elections scheduled in May 1993. For his part, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas pointed out that all the participants to the Beijing meeting said the Khmer Rouge has caused a deadlock to the Cambodia peace process by boycotting the Paris agreement. The two co-chairmen have to report on the results of the recent Beijing meeting to the United Nations as well as their proposals for the UN to decide the next action to the issue.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge have increased their military activities in Cambodia. On Monday, 9 November, they opened fire at a UN supervision station near the Cambodia-Thai border. There is no time for the peace process in Cambodia unless the United Nations takes appropriate measures.

Philippine Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

BK1411144792 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 14—Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding an official friendship visit to Vietnam from Nov. 10.

While in Ho Chi Minh City, the Philippine foreign minister was received on Nov. 12 and 13 by vice mayors of the city, Nguyen Van Huan and Pham Chanh Truc.

Foreign Minister Romulo also met with officials of the city's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and visited the Leather Goods, Garments, Textile Export-Import Company (Legamex).

Value of Exports, Smuggling Reported Nationwide

BK1611100392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Since early this year, Vietnam has exported goods valued at almost $2 billion or 81 percent of this year's plan norms. The goods include rice, crude oil, rubber, coffee, tin, and coal.

The volume of imported goods also increased as compared to the corresponding period last year. The circulation of goods in domestic markets during the past 10 months was worth more than 30,000 billion dong. State-run business establishments shared 18 percent of the market segments, collective units shared more than one percent, and privately run establishments more than 80 percent.

Due to difficulties in finding foreign markets for their products, Vietnamese establishments producing export goods have striven to improve their product quality and promote selling at home and abroad. Thanks to their efforts, the value of exports has increased notably.

However, the current smuggling of foreign goods, counterfeiting, and declining demand have caused difficulties to production. It is estimated that during the past nine months, a volume of goods worth 3,000 billion dong has been smuggled into Vietnam. The authorities, however, discovered and confiscated smuggled goods worth only 120 billion dong, mostly spare parts of cars and motorcyles, foreign cigarettes, cloth, bicycles, beer, ready-made dresses, electronic appliances, and other merchandises.

Australia

Claim of Uranium Sale to Indonesia Dismissed

BK1611065292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0256 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Sydney, Nov 16 (AFP)—The Australian Government denied claims made by Greenpeace on Monday that it might sell uranium to Indonesia to support that country's nascent nuclear power programme.

Greenpeace called on its supporters and the Australian public to inundate the office of Prime Minister Paul Keating with faxes and phone calls to oppose an agreement to transfer nuclear science and technology that it said would be signed in Jakarta this week.

The environmental group said the agreement would be signed by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, one of five Australian ministers taking part in the first ministerial forum with Indonesia, which started Monday.

"It's possible that uranium sales to Indonesia will follow," Greenpeace said in leaflets distributed on the streets here by activists manning makeshift phone and fax centres.

A spokesman for Evans in Canberra categorically denied that the government was considering uranium sales to Indonesia.

"What they are talking about is the Indonesian Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, which will facilitate cooperation between the two countries in the area of nuclear technology," the spokesman said by telephone, adding: "It is not an agreement to sell uranium."

The agreement would allow Indonesia access to Australian know-how on nuclear medicine, the management of nuclear waste, the assessment of technology and radiation protection, the spokesman said.

He dismissed as "bizarre allegations" claims by Greenpeace's nuclear campaign coordinator Jean McSorley that "the government is aiding our nearest neighbour's nuclear ambitions."

McSorley accused the government of conducting business in secret, saying: "It is hardly surprising that the Australian Government did not want this issue discussed, nor is it surprising that the actual signing ceremony is taking place in Jakarta, as opposed to Canberra."

Greenpeace said Indonesia planned to build between seven and 12 nuclear power plants that would become operational between 2003 and 2015.

Official: Business Prospects in SRV Exaggerated

BK1411064692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A senior Australian Government trade official says media reporting of Vietnam may have exaggerated business prospects there. Philip (Salbery) says there has been an overwhelming amount of interest among Australian exporters in the Vietnamese market but the weak Vietnamese economy is not producing enough hard currency to pay for many imported products. Over the longer term however, he says interest from Australian exporters should be justified.

But at the same time Mr. (Salbery) says reporting of last year's massacre in the East Timorese capital of Dili has not deterred Australian business interests in Indonesia. He says the number of business people passing through the Australian Government trade offices in Jakarta and Surabaya has doubled over the past year.